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AND

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### REVIEW OF NEW BOOKS.

*Report from the Select Committee on Record Commission; together with the Minutes of Evidence, &c.*

THIS long-delayed volume has, at last, reached us, and we take an early opportunity to give our readers a sample of its contents. Considering it merely as a work affording a vast mass of information respecting the depositories and actual condition of our national records, it is of the greatest value: but it has higher and more serious claims upon the attention of government and the public; since it offers the only detailed information that can be obtained concerning the management and expenditure of the present Record Commission, and involves, to use the words of a member of the committee, "the character and the fortune of individuals, as well as the reputation of a public body, and the interests of the country, in a large expenditure of the public money." It will be recollected, that, in a series of articles which appeared in this journal during the past year, we endeavoured, with but scanty materials for our guidance, to point out the errors of the Commission; and the object of the present, and a future article, will be to shew, that the evidence affords the fullest proofs that can be required of its constitution being, in every respect, inadequate to the fulfilment of the measures proposed at its formation.

The Commons, in the fourteenth, were as anxious for the due care and preservation of the records as their descendants in the last and present century; but the brief and energetic expression of their sentiments on the subject, in the reign of the third Edward, was productive of more benefit than the elaborate report of the committee of 1800. To the former we are indebted for those precautionary measures which have served to hand down to us the records of five centuries, comparatively free from all injuries but those inflicted by the delinquencies of record-keepers and their servants: while to the latter we are indebted for the establishment of a series of imbecile commissions, nominally inquisitorial, and, in some respects, dangerously executive; absolutely without power to remedy any one of the many evils reprobated in the report, but possessing sufficient authority to squander thousands in printing a score or two of trashy volumes, edited by individuals whose attainments would have scarcely qualified them for a seat on the lower form of the most indifferent public school in the country. Unfortunately, the waste of public money is the least of the charges to be brought against them: in the opinion of a competent witness, "More of the Records of England have been destroyed since the Record Commission was first instituted, in 1800, than were destroyed during the four previous centuries."—*Sir Thomas Phillips*, q. 7551.

The method adopted by the present board, in selecting works for publication, is well illustrated by the evidence. We have hinted, more than once, that, if the ability of the commissioners to decide upon the propriety of printing any one record was presumed, rather than understood, there could be no doubt as to the

general principles upon which they, or their secretary, acted in making choice of the works already before the public. Among the individuals, twenty-two in number, forming the present board, are two to whom the world attributes some credit for their historical writings; we allude to Messrs. Hallam and Allen. Any one ignorant of the chicanery of the day would naturally suppose, that to these gentlemen the board would have left the task of selecting records worthy of publication, and of securing the services of competent editors: moreover, it might not only be rationally concluded, that the board had deferred to the judgment of persons of such literary notoriety, but that they themselves felt some anxiety to forward the interests of that branch of literature in which they obtained their reputations, by taking care that no absurd and useless productions were allowed to swamp the public money, and to disgrace the commission. What are the facts? Let Mr. Hallam speak for himself.

"You have been a commissioner since 1831? I have.—Have you frequently attended the board? I have attended pretty frequently.—From your experience as a commissioner, should you say, that you have had an accurate knowledge of the proceedings of the board all that time? By attending the board, I have had so far a knowledge, that I have known the proceedings when I have been present, which has been generally the case.—Have you generally known what works were going to make their appearance, under the sanction of the board? Not entirely. The meetings have not been very frequent; I should think, upon an average, six or eight in a year: but the general management of the board has rested with the secretary, and some commissioners with whom he has had communication. I cannot say that I have always known what was going forward, but I have always had the power of doing so."

Mr. Allen answers,—"Will you explain the phrase which you used, that you could not say whether they were all selected with reference to those which remain unprinted, and which you, a commissioner, knew nothing of, or knew very little of? I should say that I know very little of a work that I never considered with a considerable degree of attention. I do know that the Pipe Rolls are very valuable; but I must confess that, except the Pipe Roll of Stephen,\* I know nothing of the Pipe Rolls but through Maddox.—How is it that, as a commissioner, you have been allowing works to be selected for printing and publication, not knowing whether or not there were more valuable works? It is to be considered that two persons may have different opinions as to the comparative value of different publications: the publications that were ordered to be printed I know to be valuable; whether they are more or less valuable than others is a matter of opinion, upon which I might have one notion, and another person another notion.—But, not knowing what was in the office, you could hardly form an opinion upon that subject? I knew from Maddox that a great deal of valuable

matter was to be got from the Pipe Rolls; and perhaps a particular record might be preferred because there was a person qualified to edit it!"

Thus, it is quite clear that these gentlemen knew but little about the relative value of Records; that they were no better informed concerning the works proceeding under the direction of the commission; and it is doubtful whether they cared to learn any thing relating to them. But, circumscribed as their knowledge of Records appears to be, it is great compared to the utter innocence of their colleagues, and might have been turned to account had they not been mystified by "the secretary, and the commissioners with whom he was in the habit of communicating." Mr. Allen, also, lets out that their plan was to publish a work for the sake of the editor, and palms upon the committee the astonishing and absurd sophism, that different Records require editors of different degrees of knowledge! Mr. Hallam acquired a little insight into the affairs of the commission in a very odd way. "The secretary, and the commissioners with whom he was in the habit of communicating," discovered in that gentleman a latent talent for arithmetic, and, with a laudable anxiety to develop it for the public benefit, they set him to audit the accounts of the secretary. In the discharge of his labour—for labour it must have been if he succeeded in understanding the most confused and unbusinesslike statements ever made by a highly paid and responsible servant—the historian of the middle ages learned, for the first time, that the commissioners had purchased a library at the cost of several hundred pounds; that they employed agents abroad to collect materials for British history; and, lastly, by the same process, he became acquainted with the names of many persons in the employment of the board, and of works already printed, of which, as a commissioner frequently attending the board, he had never before heard. The evidence of Mr. Protheroe, his fellow-auditor, is to the same effect, and goes, perhaps, somewhat further, as the following extracts will shew:—"In auditing the accounts, did you become acquainted with any expenditure or payment of which you had been previously ignorant? Yes, a great many.—Of any amount? A very considerable amount.—At which audit did you first become acquainted with any expenditure of which, as a commissioner, you were ignorant? We became acquainted with expenditure, of which we were ignorant as to its nature and object, only, perhaps, at the first audit; but in all subsequent audits I have become acquainted, and I should say that my colleagues have become acquainted, with payments to individuals with whose names, even, we were wholly unacquainted, although the objects for which those payments had been made had become known to us at the previous audit. Perhaps I shall best explain my answer by stating that, for instance, in the purchase of books, we became acquainted, for the first time, with any large expenditure of that nature on our first audit; but subsequent bills for books were sent in from other booksellers, which purchases we had not been previously acquainted with. We became cognisant at the

\* There is no such Roll!

first audit of sums paid for foreign collections, said to be for the continuation of the *Fœdera*. At our subsequent audit we became acquainted with the names of other parties to whom payments had been made, besides those whose names had occurred the year before.—By whom were those payments made? By Mr. Cooper.—By any authority from the commissioners? I am not aware of any general order for incurring this expenditure: certainly none for the particular payment.\* And a little further on we have the following important questions and answers:—"The accounts did not come to you as accounts sanctioned by the board, but accounts presented by Mr. Cooper, as what were afterwards to be certified to be accounts incurred by the sanction of the board by a quorum commissioner? The result of the demand for the subsequent signature of a quorum commissioner proves that this representation is correct; but we received those bills as bills of expenses incurred by the secretary in the discharge of the business of the commission.—In fact, the same gentlemanlike indifference pervaded the accounts as the Records? I should certainly say, yes. \* \* \* Do you think it possible for you, or any other commissioner, to say what is the amount of any particular branch of your expenditure? Certainly not: I could form a pretty accurate opinion for one or two years, but I should be sorry to put in evidence from such a statement, inasmuch as it is made upon very rough calculations.—Do you think that the other commissioners are better informed than you are upon these subjects of finance? I should conceive not so well informed: no one, I believe, has attempted any thing like an analysis or digest of the accounts but myself." In detailing the manner in which the best practical men on the commission became acquainted with its principal operations, we have purposely strayed into the financial evidence, which is so closely connected with the subject we are discussing; and we have quoted enough of it to convince any unprejudiced person that reform cannot be too soon extended to this department of the commission: perhaps, our next statements may prove that the whole system is thoroughly bad and corrupt. "The secretary, and the commissioners with whom he was in the habit of communicating," having disposed of Mr. Hallam in the way we have mentioned, went on and expended upwards of a thousand pounds in collecting abroad for the "Materials for British History;" and, having omitted to consult the most competent member of the board respecting them, they also scrupulously concealed from Mr. Petrie, the editor of the work for which these researches were principally undertaken,\* the efforts they were making to assist him, but worked on from year to year, silent as the grave, and chuckling, perhaps, at the thoughts of the glorious moment when, having hatched their golden eggs, they should be at liberty to surprise the learned gentleman by announcing to him their past exertions, exhibiting their accumulation of treasure, and insinuating how much they had learned of which he was ignorant. Alas, for the plans of men! In the meanwhile comes the parliamentary inquiry; and Appendix C., the silly mouse of this second edition of the *Mountain in Labour*, is handed to the committee, and unquestionable evidence is given that almost all the documents contained in it, collected abroad at a great—we may say a vast, expense, are enrolled either at the Tower or the Town Clerk's office!! The *Rotuli Selecti*, and

\* A few appear to have been collected for the *Fœdera*. We speak on the authority of Mr. Cooper's evidence, and that of Mr. Petrie.

the Chancellor's Roll, and their blundering editors, sink into nothing compared with this amazing charlatanism. Here our learned, unpaid, irresponsible commissioners, and their "enlightened secretary" (*vide* Preface to *Ancient Fines*), have actually been carrying coals to Newcastle; and, in return for the compliments of *doctissimi, illustrissimi*—we had almost said, *inceptissimi*, which are matters of course to a German senate, and cost but a few strokes of the pen, spending the broad gold pieces of England in the employment of learned Hamburgers to copy copies of instruments, of which the legal and authentic enrolments might have been consulted and transcribed at the cost of a few shillings, and the trouble of a walk into the good city of London. We may add, as an appropriate termination of this capital farce, that the copies thus procured were so exceedingly incorrect that a further expense was incurred to render them intelligible, which was accomplished by collating them with enrolments in the Tower. Thus, the cost of the raw materials of Appendix C. may be classed under the following heads:—Expense of printing the titles of the commissioners, their patent, and certain questions, the same having been previously written either in Latin or German,\* to send to Hamburg; postage of answers from Hamburg to London; postage back again of orders to copy; expense of transcripts and carriage of the same to London; cost of rendering the same intelligible; and, lastly, the heavy expenses of printing and corrections: and all this for an appendix to a report not yet printed, which was to be eventually treated as waste paper, while the documents were to be incorporated in the new edition of the *Fœdera*, or the "Materials for British History," and would thus have been twice printed at the public expense. We leave our readers to make their own comments on these facts, observing, that there are many other appendices of a similar character, which we may fairly presume to be of equal value with volume C.; and adding, by way of elucidating the case, the following passages from the Report of the Committee:—

"The business of the commission was [is?] nominally conducted at meetings or boards, held at the official or private residence of some one of the commissioners. It appears from a Return laid before your committee that, in a period of nearly five years, thirty-eight boards were held, and only seven of the twenty-five commissioners attended at more than half of these. These boards were called by the secretary at his discretion. They sat rarely more than two or three hours, their duration depending on the time at which some of the leading official members could conveniently come, and that at which they were forced to go away to attend to other business. The business to be done at these boards was arranged by the secretary. The correspondence of the commission was carried on by the secretary. Letters of great importance were *not* laid before the board. Notices and communications of the commissioners themselves appear, in the same way, to have been liable to be suppressed, or only partially communicated to the board. Some business of the commission was also done by committees."

In fact, the administration of the affairs of the commission appears, in a great measure, to have been vested in the hands of the secretary, consulting occasionally two or three of the commissioners.

It appears also, from the evidence of Mr.

\* Translated, also, into French and Portuguese.

Protheroe, "that it was an express understanding between him (the secretary) and Lord Brougham, that the Record business was to yield to his private law avocations; and, to use his (the secretary's) own words, 'that the condition on which he accepted the office of secretary was, that its duties should be made in all respects secondary and subordinate to his professional avocations.'"

To conclude, for the present, with the result come to by the committee:—

"The undefined and almost unlimited authority exercised by the secretary exhibits, in the judgment of your committee, an obvious defect in the constitution and management of the board: since he possessed, as will appear from the following more detailed statement, the entire control over the funds and disbursements of the commission; of the preparation of its works; of the engagements, salaries, and duties, of all persons in the employ of the commission; and of the distribution of its publications."\*

*Falkner. A Novel.* By the Author of "Frankenstein," the "Last Man," &c. 3 vols. 12mo. London, 1837. Saunders and Otley.

Mrs. SHELLEY wields a powerful pen for a female hand. Energy and highly wrought passion are her most characteristic features; and when she smiles, it is very *Cassius-like*. The relief of playfulness does not suit her pictures; and she therefore rarely attempts that variation, but substitutes, instead, passages of tenderness and pathos. The whole becomes a production of highly wrought excitement, with only the repose—if repose it can be called—of some natural touches of infantile and common feelings; and thus, though forcible in detail and general effect, the prevailing colours are sombre and gloomy.

Falkner bears a near resemblance to Sir Edward Mortimer; and Elizabeth Raby, the heroine, his adopted daughter, reminds us (only that she is of another sex) of the general construction of the plot and the incidents of the "Iron Chest." The principal characters, as well as the leading events of the story, belong rather to the regions of romance than to that representation of actual life which we understand by the term, "Novel;" and the reader, without being much at a loss to guess the mystery enveloped in the narrative, or the way in which affairs will end, is led along by the talent of the writer through certain walks of imagination, till her task is completed, and the *dénouement* allowed.

\* This Review will probably be displeasing to our worthy contemporary, the *Gentleman's Magazine* (or the writer therein upon the subject of the "Record Commission," over whom the editor is civil enough to throw the shield of his responsibility); but, as the *Literary Gazette* took the lead in calling the public attention to this subject, we have not felt that we could be justified in retreating from the disagreeable task of following it up, truly and impartially, to the end, to the best of our judgment, without prejudice or favour towards any one. That we have thus cooled some of our friends, we must regret; but, at the close of nearly twenty years' discharge of a public duty, which we took upon ourselves to perform, there could be no inducement sufficient for us to compromise the character of this journal. We refrained from noticing the *Gent.*'s attacks upon us last July; whether we shall put up with his new assault, remains to be seen. We made allowance for his zeal to protect a contributor and ally; though we thought he need not try to bespatter us so much in the job. His conduct reminded us of that of the old Highland wife in the anecdote of the rebellion, who, when her crouny, talking over public affairs, said, "God defend the right!" replied, with vehemence, "God defend the right! What d'ye mean, Janet? God defend Hamilton's regiment, quoth I, whether right or wrong!" So the *Gent.*'s Mag. has its Hamilton's, or Hunter's, regiment; and the more wrong the more stoutly does it stand up for the cause.

With these few remarks we shall (without removing any of the veil which covers the plot) give a few examples of Mrs. Shelley's genius, in different lights. Her description of the orphan Elizabeth, whose father and mother have died, and are buried in the churchyard of a remote sea-bathing village in Cornwall, is very affecting.

"The little orphan grew, meanwhile, as a garden-rose that accident has thrown amidst briars and weeds—blooming with alien beauty, and unfolding its soft petals, and shedding its ambrosial odour beneath the airs of heaven, unharmed by its strange position. Lovely as a day of paradise, which, by some strange chance, visits this nether world to gladden every heart, she charmed even her selfish protectress; and, despite her shabby attire, her cherub smiles, the free and noble steps which her tiny feet could take even now, and the music of her voice, rendered her the object of respect and admiration, as well as love, to the whole village. The loss of her father had acquainted the poor child with death. Her mother had explained the awful mystery as well as she could to her infantine intellects, and, indulging in her own womanish and tender fancies, had often spoken of the dead as hovering over and watching around his loved ones, even in the new state of existence to which he had been called. Yet she wept as she spoke. 'He is happy,' she exclaimed; 'but he is not here! Why did he leave us? Ah! why desert those who loved him so well, who need him so dearly? How forlorn and cast away are we without him!' These scenes made a deep impression upon the sensitive child; and when her mother died too, and was carried away and placed in the cold earth beside her husband, the orphan would sit for hours by the graves, now fancying that her mother must soon return, now exclaiming, 'Why are you gone away? Come, dear mamma, come back—come quickly!' Young as she was, it was no wonder that such thoughts were familiar to her. The minds of children are often as intelligent as those of persons of maturer age, and differ only by containing fewer ideas; but these had so often been presented to her, and she so fixed her little heart on the idea that her mother was watching over her, that at last it became a part of her religion to visit, every evening, the two graves, and saying her prayers near them—to believe that her mother's spirit, which was obscurely associated with her mortal remains reposing below, listened to and blessed her on that spot. At other times, neglected as she was, and left to wander at will, she conned her lesson, as she had been accustomed at her mother's feet, beside her grave. She took her picture-books there, and even her playthings. The villagers were affected by her childish notion of being 'with mamma,' and Missy became something of an angel in their eyes; so that no one interfered with her visits, or tried to explain away her fancies. She was the nursing of love and nature; but the human hearts which could have felt the greatest tenderness for her beat no longer, and had become clods of the soil,—

\* Borne round in earth's diurnal course,  
With rocks, and stones, and trees."

There was no knee on which she could playfully climb, no neck round which she could fondly hang, no parent's cheek on which to print her happy kisses: these two graves were all of relationship she knew upon the earth; and she would kiss the ground and the flowers, not one of which she plucked, as she sat embracing the sod. 'Mamma' was every where

around. 'Mamma' was there beneath, and still she could love and feel herself beloved. At other times she played gaily with her young companions in the village, and sometimes she fancied that she loved some one among them. She made them presents of books and toys, the relics of happier days; for the desire to benefit, which springs up so naturally in a loving heart, was strong within her, even in that early age: but she never took any one with her in her churchyard visits—she needed none while she was with mamma. Once, indeed, a favourite kitten was carried to the sacred spot; and the little animal played amidst the grass and flowers, and the child joined in its frolics. Her solitary gay laugh might be heard among the tombs—she did not think it solitary: mamma was there to smile on her as she sported with her tiny favourite."

The love of children is well illustrated in the annexed:—

'We human beings are so unlike one to the other, that it is often difficult to make one person understand that there is any force in an impulse which is omnipotent with another. Children, to some, are mere animals, unendued with instinct, troublesome, and unsightly—with others they possess a charm that reaches to the heart's core, and stirs the purest and most generous portions of our nature.'

The young hero, Neville, is perhaps drawn too strongly for his tender years. At sixteen, this seems to be more of creative fiction than truth:—

"He was wondrously handsome; large, deep-set hazel eyes, shaded by long dark lashes—full at once of fire, and softness; a brow of extreme beauty, over which clustered a profusion of chestnut-coloured hair; an oval face; a person, light and graceful as a sculptured image—all this, added to an expression of gloom that amounted to sullenness, with which, despite the extreme refinement of his features, a certain fierceness even was mingled, formed a study a painter would have selected for a kind of ideal poetic sort of bandit strippling."

Then Elizabeth, at thirteen, is equally premature:—

"Every other arrangement for their voyage was quickly made, and it remained only to determine whether Miss Jervis should accompany them. Elizabeth's mind was divided. She was averse to parting with an unoffending and kind companion, and to forego her instructions—though, in truth, she had got beyond them. But she feared that the governess might hereafter shackle her conduct. Every word Falkner had let fall concerning his desire to die, she remembered and pondered upon. To watch over and to serve him was her aim in going with him. Child as she was, a thousand combinations of danger presented themselves to her imagination, when her resolution and fearlessness might bring safety. The narrow views and timid disposition of Miss Jervis might impede her grievously."

We conclude with the original sketch of the last representative of one of the oldest families in England, the grandfather of Elizabeth; to whose protection, Falkner, for urgent reasons, is most desirous to consign her.

"The first step he took, in furtherance of this new resolution, was to make inquiries concerning the present state of Elizabeth's family; of which, hitherto, he knew no more than what he gathered from her mother's unfinished letter: and this was limited to their being a wealthy Catholic family, proud of their ancestry, and devoted to their faith. \* \* \* The present head of the family was an old man; he had long been a widower, left with a

family of six sons. The eldest had married early, and was dead, leaving his widow with four daughters and one son, who was heir of the family honours and estates, and resided with his mother, for the most part, at the mansion of his grandfather. Of the remaining sons, little account could be gained. It was the family custom to concentrate all its prosperity and wealth on the head of the eldest son; and the younger, precluded by their religion, at that time, from advancement in their own country, entered foreign service. One only had exempted himself from the common lot, and become an outcast, and, in the eyes of his family, a reprobate. Edwin Raby had apostatised from the Catholic faith; he had married a portionless girl of inferior birth, and entered the profession of the law. His parents looked with indignation on the dishonour entailed on their name through his falling off; but his death relieved their terrors—he died, leaving a widow and an infant daughter. As the marriage had never been acknowledged, and female offspring were held supernumerary, and an encumbrance in the Raby family, they had refused to receive her, and never heard of her more."

Falkner proceeds to Northumberland to restore the orphan, his adopted daughter.

"At length he arrived at his destination, and reached the entrance to Belleforest. The mansion, a fine old Gothic building, adorned by the ruins of an ancient abbey, was in itself venerable and extensive, and surrounded by a princely demesne. This was the residence of Elizabeth's ancestors—of her nearest relatives. \* \* \*

Every thing around denoted grandeur and wealth: the very circumstance that the family adhered to the ancient faith of the land—to a form of worship which, though evil in its effects on the human mind, is to the eye imposing and magnificent—shed a greater lustre round the place. On inquiry, Falkner heard that the old gentleman was at Belleforest—indeed, he never quitted it; but that his daughter-in-law, with her family, were in the south of England. Mr. Raby was very accessible: on asking for him, Falkner was instantly ushered in. He entered a library of vast dimensions, and fitted up with a sort of heavy splendour; very imposing, but very sombre. The high windows, painted ceiling, and massy furniture, bespoke an old-fashioned, but almost regal taste. Falkner, for a moment, thought himself alone, when a slight noise attracted his attention to a diminutive, and very white old gentleman, who advanced towards him. The mansion looked built for a giant race; and Falkner, expecting the majesty of size, could hardly contract his view to the slender and insignificant figure of the present possessor. Oswi Raby looked shrivelled, not so much by age as the narrowness of his mind, to whose dimensions his outward figure had contracted itself. His face was pale and thin; his light-blue eyes grown dim: you might have thought that he was drying up and vanishing from the earth by degrees. Contrasted with this slight shadow of a man, was a mind that saw the whole world almost concentrated in himself. He, Oswi Raby, he, head of the oldest family in England, was first of created beings. Without being assuming in manner, he was self-important in heart; and there was an obstinacy, and an incapacity to understand that any thing was of consequence except himself, or rather, except the house he represented, that gave extreme repulsion to his manners. It was always awkward to disclose an errand such as Falkner's; it was only by plunging at



once into it, and warming himself by his own words, that he contrived to throw a grace round his subject. A cloud gathered over the old man's features; he grew whiter, and his thin lips closed as if they had never opened except with a refusal. 'You speak of very painful circumstances,' he said; 'I have sometimes feared that I should be intruded upon in behalf of this person; yet, after so many years, there is less pretence than ever for encroaching upon an injured family. Edwin himself broke the tie. He was rebellious and apostate. He had talents, and might have distinguished himself to his honour: he preferred irreparable disgrace. He abandoned the religion which we consider as the most precious part of our inheritance; and he added imprudence to guilt, by, he being himself unprovided for, marrying a portionless, low-born girl. He never hoped for my forgiveness; he never even asked it. His death—it is hard for a father to feel thus—but his death was a relief. We were applied to by his widow; but with her we could have nothing to do. She was the partner of his rebellion—nay, we looked upon her as its primal cause. I was willing to take charge of my grandchild, if delivered entirely up to me. She did not even think proper to reply to the letter making this concession. I had, indeed, come to the determination of continuing to her a portion of the allowance I made to my son, despite his disobedience; but from that time to this no tidings of either mother or daughter have reached us.' 'Death must bear the blame of that negligence,' said Falkner, mastering his rising disgust. 'Mrs. Raby was hurried to the grave but a few months after your son's death, the victim of her devoted affection to her husband. Their innocent daughter was left among strangers, who did not know to whom to apply. She, at least, is free from all fault, and has every claim on her father's family.' 'She is nothing, and has no claim,' interrupted Mr. Raby, peevishly, 'beyond a bare maintenance, even if she be the person you represent. I beg your pardon, sir, but you may be deceived yourself on this subject; but, taking it for granted that this young person is the daughter of my son, what is she to me?' 'A grand-daughter is a relation,' Falkner began; 'a near and dear one—' 'Under such circumstances,' interrupted Mr. Raby,—'under the circumstances of a marriage to which I gave no consent, and her being brought up at a distance from us all, I should rather call her a connexion than a relation. We cannot look with favour on the child of an apostate, educated in a faith which we consider pernicious. I am an old-fashioned man, accustomed only to the society of those whose feelings coincide with mine, and I must apologise, sir, if I say any thing to shock you; but the truth is self-evident: a child of a discarded son may have a slender claim for support—none for favour or countenance. This young person has no right to raise her eyes to us; she must regulate her expectations by the condition of her mother, who was a sort of servant, a humble companion or governess, in the house of Mrs. Neville of Dromore.' Falkner grew pale at the name, but, commanding himself, replied, 'I believe she was a friend of that lady. I have said I was unacquainted with the parents of Miss Raby; I found her an orphan, subsisting on precarious charity. Her few years, her forlorn situation, her beauty and sweetness, claimed my compassion: I adopted her—' 'And would now throw her off,' again interrupted the ill-tempered old man. 'Had you

restored her to us in her childhood; had she been brought up in our religion among us; she would have shared this home with her cousins. As it is, you yourself must be aware that it will be impossible to admit, as an inmate, a stranger—a person ignorant of our peculiar systems—an alien from our religion. Mrs. Raby would never consent to it; and I would on no account annoy her, who, as the mother and guardian of my heir, merits every deference. I will, however, consult with her, and with the gentleman who has the conduct of my affairs; and, as you wish to get rid of an embarrassment, which, pardon me if I say you entirely brought on yourself, we will do what we judge due to the honour of the family: but I cannot hold out any hopes beyond a maintenance—unless this young person, whom I should then regard as my grand-daughter, felt a vocation for a religion out of whose pale I will never acknowledge a relation.' At every word Falkner grew more angry. He always repressed any manifestation of passion, and only grew pale, and spoke in a lower, calmer voice. There was a pause; he glanced at the white hair and attenuated form of the old man, so as to acquire a sufficient portion of forbearance, and then replied,—'It is enough: forget this visit; you shall never hear again of the existence of your outraged grandchild. Could you for a moment comprehend her worth, you might feel regret at casting from you one whose qualities render her the admiration of all who know her. Some day, when the infirmities of age increase upon you, you may remember that you might have had a being near, the most compassionate and kind that breathes. If ever you feel the want of an affectionate hand to smooth your pillow, you may remember that you have shut your heart to one who would have been a daily blessing.'

*A New and Enlarged English and Latin Dictionary, containing all the chief Words and Phrases in the English Language, and a classical Latin Version of each Word; to which is added a New and Improved Latin and English Dictionary, on the Plan of Schrevelius's Greek Lexicon.* By the Rev. J. W. Niblock, D.D., F.R.S.L. &c. London, 1837. Valpy.

We have always opposed, to the best of our power, that rage for cheap knowledge and speedy learning, which seemed disposed to manufacture wisdom by steam, and infuse it by high pressure into the mass of mankind: an excellent idea in itself, and only wanting practicability to render it generally effective. The influx of penny, or, rather, catchpenny publications has, therefore, more than once called forth our decided reprobation; for, if their cost was next to nothing, their value was even less: while the injury they do, by substituting superficiality for soundness, is, by this time, we suppose, tolerably obvious to all but the blind. In fact, a man who would attempt, on the strength of such reading, to pass himself as a scholar upon the public, would be about as well received as a guest who should enter a drawing-room by the window, with the assistance of similar rubbish heaped outside the walls.

The outcry against the old and wholesome system of gradual improvement is, in truth, as rational as to object against a foundation in building. The groundworks in learning, as in architecture, may be unseen, but what security is there for superstructures without them? and what for the people's heads amongst whom they are suffered? The child, in his education,

acquires not merely Latin and Greek, but the lessons that antiquity utters in them; his memory is stored, not with words alone, but with maxims and facts; he learns, not barely to repeat as a parrot, but to reason as a man; his judgment grows with his intellectual powers, themselves slowly formed: and he thus gradually acquires that invaluable habit of application, and consequent self-confidence, so indispensable for mastering difficulties in after life, and without which no man ever became great, or wise, or worthy.

Yet, we have never denied that improvement was necessary in our scholastic system to keep pace with the increasing wants of the age. The most learned of our schoolmen have felt this necessity, and the elementary works now put into the hands of pupils are of a far higher character than formerly. The greatest desideratum was, however, that of a good Latin dictionary; and such, we think, is the work before us. Dr. Niblock has, for nearly thirty years, applied himself to the compilation, and has been satisfied in this thankless task to devote to it no common portion of learning, classical, modern, and even oriental. In the case of Entick's, the common school-dictionary, the rapid demand and increasing circulation of the various, and successively improving, editions, evidence how strongly the most competent judges felt the errors and deficiencies of its former state. Entick was edited by Crackelt, then revised by Sarjant, then improved by Carey,—great names, doubtless, especially the last; but every scholar acknowledged the omissions they tolerated, and the barbarisms they retained.

We have closely scrutinised the work before us, and compared it with the two prevailing dictionaries, Entick's and Ainsworth's. If the reader turns to the most confessedly defective, *i. e.* the English-Latin portion of the latest Entick, for *light-house*, it is not there! for *observatory*, he is concisely informed that it is *specula ex qua sidera observantur*! This substantive appears singular, and, we think, plural also, needing little increase in the genitive, whatever that may be; can it not be declined altogether? *Poker* we find difficult to handle as *ferum ad ignem excitandum*. There are *ius similia* innumerable throughout Entick, and Ainsworth also, on the principle, probably, of the Latin rule, *aliquando oratio supplet locum substantivi*. We need but one instance more of this from Ainsworth, who gives to *lumber* the one formidable definition of *instrumenta domestica ponderosiora* (and certainly nothing can be *more ponderous* than this) in his English-Latin portion, while the Latin-English supplies to *scruta* and *frivola* the very quotations overlooked in the former part: and this has lasted for a century!

Dr. Niblock has not revised, but reframed, or, in the language of the day, *radically reformed* the English-Latin portion of the work; cleansing out the mass of monkish barbarisms from the Angean stable, in a style that may prevent little boys from being *horsed* as heretofore. Those ingenious *didactic* and *descriptive pieces*, as Entick's "Speaker" would call them, and to which we have referred above as *definitions*, are supplied by terms taken from good authority and Augustan Latinity. Thus, *light-house* is *pharos*, *observatory* is *agurale*, on the authority of Tacitus; *poker*, *suscitabulum ignis*. *Lumber* is *scruta*, on the authority of Horace, and *frivola* on that of Juvenal, as well as *impedimenta*, its sole equivalent in Carey's Entick, to say nothing of *quisquilia*.

From modern blunders to monkish barbarisms the ascent is fortunately easy, owing to the

successive links so carefully preserved in the two dictionaries commonly used. We have, in our ignorance, held it an invariable maxim that words not incorporated into a language did not receive its rules. Dr. Niblock's volume gives us *centuria* for *wapentake*, and this we can comprehend: but, in Entick, that intractable Saxon term (and what modern could incorporate it into the Latin language?) politely changes its native *k* into *g*, out of regard for the Romans, doubtless, and takes its place in pure Latinity with a *w*, of which they were unconscious, passing muster by tacking on a final *um*! The authority that sanctioned this required an authority for itself; much in the manner of the abbot, who proved in court that his monks, and not he, should pay for paving the chancel, by the passage from St. Peter, *illi paveant, non paveam ego*.

The subject is so important for education, that we have gone carefully over the work we are reviewing; and we would recommend comparison between it and its predecessor (or must we call it, rival?) Entick, in such words as *any, attendance, bow, cancerous, conic, demand, dose, ears, feeling, gold, &c. &c.* of which we could furnish more than one hundred and twenty specimens which we have ourselves examined, down to *zone*, which is going round the alphabet, as proofs. For instance, the word *half* is above twice the *whole* given in Ainsworth, and ten times more than Entick offers on the subject; and there can be no competition on the head of additions, accent, classification, corrections, conciseness, purity, and simplicity: unless the reader should conceive, with Entick and his revisers, that the word *hundred* rendered *hundredum* is a superior proof of the last-named attribute, and *wardmole, wardemolus*—*quo warranto*, we should like to know.

The place of excluded barbarisms is supplied by our author with the addition of nearly three thousand words, so as to avoid swelling the bulk of the volume; the insertion of signs of accentuation, quantity, and relative value; the distinction of the parts of speech; of *I* from *J*, of *U* from *V*, so uselessly perplexing in general; the lucid arrangement and valuable notes; the restoration of the mythology to its separate place, which renders this portion amusingly instructive, instead of being lost, as hitherto, in the general alphabet; and, further, the accentuation of the English words also, which dispenses for the scholar with the necessity of *Walker* as well as *Labbe*,—all add to the value of the first part: while similar improvements in the Latin-English portion; the heteroclit cases and tenses; the etymologies, where required for distinguishing similar words,—make this work, in our careful and candid judgment, invaluable for the teacher and student, as it early stamps on the mind, without effort, the purity or impurity of Latin terms and phrases. Perhaps, an appendix of the two thousand barbarisms, which need not occupy a dozen leaves (thirty-six columns), would be advantageous; and a quarto, or octavo at least, for our public schools and colleges, we shall hope for speedily from the learned and indefatigable lexicographer.

*Manuela, the Executioner's Daughter; a Story of Madrid.* 3 vols. London, 1837. Bentley. We hardly know what to say of this half novel, half travels. The multitude of the characters, and the great variety of the scenes and incidents, perplex us; and we whirl through a concatenation of plots, intrigues, assassinations, massacres, Spanish scenery, and Spanish society. In the midst of the civil war, we are not

sure which side we are on, or to what cause our companions really belong: it is the puzzle of a masquerade.

The author is evidently familiar with the present circumstances of Spain, and those who figure on both factions. These he has wrought into an animated story, and presented us with a series of pictures, which pass, like those of a magic lantern, vividly before our eyes. Of their variety we can afford no notion, and are, therefore, glad to select one of them (after a defeat of the Christinos) as a sample of the rest.

"The battle-field was deserted: the plunderers of the dead, scared by the pursuit of El Pastor's troops, remitted their harvest. Night for once spread a silent and hallowing veil over the wounded and the slain. Where the contest had most fiercely raged, some bodies were heaped as they had fallen. A young dragon Christino officer, who had dropped from loss of blood, occasioned by a sabre wound, was buried beneath them. Freshened by the night and the keen air of the mountains, he recovered his presence of mind, disengaged himself from the gory heap around him, and faintly and with difficulty endeavoured to effect his escape. The well-known track which his buoyant and warlike division had followed but a few hours before, needed not the sun to guide his steps. A toilsome way had been that of the wounded soldier, when the bark of a distant watch-dog proclaimed his approach to the habitations of man. Following the direction of its sound, time and mental energy brought him, exhausted, to the nearest dwelling of a secluded hamlet in a defile of the mountains. Mirth resounded from within: the laugh of exultation struck dismay to the heart of the benighted and weary applicant for hospitality. Beside a huge fire were seated a peasant, his young and handsome wife, and the village curate. 'All— all sacrificed!' and the curate's face was lighted up with a triumphant but ungodly joy. 'The glorious arms of our blessed Carlos shall ever be successful, for his is the cause of the holy church.' The peasant crossed himself with instinctive devotion. 'Thus perish every renegade!' continued the curate, when a groan from without startled the trio. The peasant rose from his seat; and, snatching the ever-ready escopeta, proceeded to open the door. 'Gente de paz' was the faint reply to the inquiry he made previous to raising the latch; and, on doing so, the tall and handsome form of a cavalry officer of the defeated troops of Christina was revealed by the light of the blazing hearth. The simple mountaineer, though he beheld in the soldier an enemy to his favourite cause, yet felt, for the moment, his scruples overcome at the supplication of a wounded and defenceless fellow-countryman. The reception of the young officer on the part of the priest was sullen and silently morose; and the peasant's wife, who first glanced at him in order to resolve on her own conduct towards the stranger, veiled the natural expression of her features with a corresponding frown. But hospitality was granted; the modest request of the traveller for a night's repose assented to; and he was suffered to rest his weary limbs in the loft which forms, in ordinary, part of a Spanish hut. The mirth, which had first created forebodings in the breast of the wounded traveller, was hushed, inasmuch as measures of policy and revenge now occupied the mind of the priest. First, he determined to destroy the fugitive partisan of Isabel, so opportunely within his grasp: and, next, to unfold this design to the artless peasant, so as to obtain means of carrying it into execution. The young wife, it was re-

ported in the village, was more frequent at the confessional than the measure of ordinary iniquities might require. Of her aid, we will, therefore, suppose the priest to feel secure: and now, when the officer had taken possession of his humble couch, the cura began, in an under key, to recapitulate the enormities of the queen's partisans, and vehemently to condemn all allegiance to her; whilst excommunication and curse were lavishly bestowed upon her adherents;—lastly, he held out that their extermination alone could be the means of obtaining for the nation celestial grace. Meanwhile, the unfortunate soldier retired to rest. The flooring of the loft, upon which he lay, was rudely constructed; and, through the apertures between the planks, the light from below was visible. He essayed in vain to compose himself: the inhospitable scowl of the friar, the churlish reception of the mountaineer and his wife, failed not to make their full impression; and gloomy thoughts took possession of his mind. The acute pain of his wounds, too, fevered his imagination, and gave rise to frightful fancies. Occasionally closing his eyes, he started anew, as if the step of an enemy approached. At length, the subdued voices of the inmates below reached his ear—a cold sweat bedewed every limb. He eagerly made to a friendly crevice, through which the light was admitted. Their ghostly companion was reciting the *benedicite* to the peasant and his wife, the former of whom held the assassin's knife, and was receiving absolution for premeditated homicide. This task performed, the priest flung his black capa around him—cast a significant look towards the ceiling—and, with a last word of encouragement, 'Corazon!' stole away. With the presence of his holy counsellor vanished the resolves of the peasant, and the knife dropped from his hand. But another adviser was there; and the dying embers on the hearth, in their expiring light, revealed the fury of a Gorgon. The countryman quaked again—it was now from the dread of his better half. Once more he seized the knife. Isidro Imnaz, conde de Nuñez, for such was the intended victim, had watched their proceedings till the light from the hearth no longer aided his observation. He had marked the irascible features of the priest;—the hand which should be uplifted only to invoke a blessing upon the meek and lowly of his flock, was raised in an attitude of fearful menace. He overheard the whispered threat of the wife, spiriting her husband on to the deed of blood. At length, distinctly could he trace the slow, stealthy step of his murderer ascending the ladder. A propitious gleam of moonlight, admitted through the roof, enabled him to discern the opening in the floor of the grange, by which he had gained his dormitory, and at that moment the form of his intended assassin stood before him. Self-preservation will suggest desperate means of rescue to the most timid; but the man of moral courage, of collected energies in the trials of life, surveys danger with a steady eye; whilst, with the same comprehensive view, he embraces every chance of escape. Imminent was the peril of the unarmed guest: his thought and his deed were one. Springing upon the murderer ere he had gained firm footing from the ladder, Isidro's hand at once grasped his throat, and, by compression, effectually prevented his shrieks. Having, with the other, possessed himself of the knife, he hurled his faithless host headlong into the abyss. At the foot of the ladder stood the peasant's wife, also armed with a knife, to complete the work

of murder, should the hand of her husband vacillate in the deed; and, as he fell into the now dark space below, in her eagerness to fulfil the priest's decree, she sprang upon the supposed guest, and severed the head from the body. Armed with the weapon which was destined to destroy himself, Imnaz sprang down the ladder, found the door, and, emerging from the abode of crime, sought a more secure resting place; leaving his hostess to discover, with return of day, in whose blood were injured the hands of an hospiticide."

*Paynell; or, the Disappointed Man.* By Miles Stapleton, Esq. 2 vols. 12mo. London, 1837. John Richardson.

To deny the author talent, would be to deny truth; but to say he had made a good use of it in these volumes, would be to compromise our honest opinion. Paynell is a sort of Byron, without poetry; and his headlong passions and melancholy amours, are the staple of a web of disappointment, which could not, and ought not, to have been other than a druggist tissue, without a golden thread or a lively sprig to relieve the sombre pattern. Some removes from a peerage, the hero half *misanthropes* and half indulges in excess, till he succeeds to wealth and title. He is then about to marry a Miss Morville; but, in consequence of morbid sentiment, takes a fancy to her cousin, Lady Harland, the wife of an honourable baronet. He *congée* the miss, but is not bad enough to attempt the mistress: flies to his hereditary hall, and indulges in a sort of Newstead Abbey revels, to induce oblivion; but in vain. He seeks change of scene on the Continent, and meets the Harlands at Avignon. Here the steps of passionate seduction and yielding virtue are traced in the Rousseau fashion; but, at last, from motives, not easily comprehended by the simple in a state nearer nature, he abandons his conquest in the hour of certain victory, and travels about Greece and Turkey, a wanderer, for a number of years. His *liaison* with Zaphia, a lovely lady, of no very good repute, is a sad tragical episode, after the manner of *Anastasis*; and we feel little for the death of this voluptuous beauty, or for that of her child. Paynell, in the midst of his journey, reminds himself of Lady Harland, and writes to her by a special messenger; but she returns his letter, unopened, to Constantinople. This is a sting; and he resolves for Avignon and personal satisfaction. Circumstances favour him, and the wife of Harland falls. They elope, and are miserable. In Paris he sees a sycophant, Allen, married to a Lady Julia, ruined by gambling: in a jealous fit he challenges and kills his own friend, De Wroth: his lady dies in childbed and wretchedness, and a black pall covers the whole *dramatis personæ*. The intended moral is excellent; but the evils are so unnatural and forced, that they fail to point it, or adorn the tale. There are crowds of sententious, and many of them, just and laudable reflections, but they smack so thoroughly of Joseph Surface, that we confess we would hang up all the philosophy, expositions of life and society, and religion, without uttering a single sigh of regret.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

*Results of the Parliamentary Inquiry relative to Arts and Manufactures.* By George Fogg, Historical Painter. Pp. 16. Boone. Mr. Fogg's "Results" do not enter upon the many questions embraced by this Inquiry; but are compressed, within sixteen pages, into

points connected with the New School of Design; leading him to a determined attack upon the Royal Academy, its constitution, its administration, its president, and its secretary. Condemning these in every way, the writer naturally censures, in unmitigated terms, the superintendence and patronage of the New School of Design (for establishing which 1500*l.* has been voted by parliament) being vested in the Royal Academy. He speaks very strongly on the subject; which, on that account, we are disposed to leave, without a comment, to the artists and manufacturers of Great Britain, who are all concerned in the proper regulation and government of a plan for employing the former, and improving the latter.

*Dr. Lardner's Cabinet Cyclopædia. Biography. Lives of British Admirals.* By R. Southey. Vol. IV. London, 1837. Longman and Co.

THIS volume contains most interesting memoirs of Robert Devereux, earl of Essex, and Sir Walter Raleigh—two great and memorable names in our history. We observe, in the former, that Dr. Southey utterly discredits the popular story of the ring being withheld from the queen by Lady Nottingham: indeed, a most improbable affair. With the memory of Raleigh, who can forget the introduction into England and Ireland of tobacco and potatoes? Who ever produced a greater change on people and country?

*On Deformities of the Chest and Spine, illustrated by Plates.* By W. Coulson. 2d Edition. Pp. 290. London, 1837. Hurst.

OF this much improved edition, we have only to say, that it not only deserves the best attention of the faculty, but ought to be read, studied, and acted upon, by every female in the empire.

*Sketch of the Comparative Anatomy of the Nervous System, &c. &c.* By J. Anderson, M.E.S. 4to. Pp. 63. London, 1837. Sherwood and Co.; Paris and London, Baillière.

A VERY curious and interesting investigation of a subject on which not only the pains and pleasures of man in a great measure depend, but which also involves the sensations of all, or nearly all, created and living beings. Mr. Anderson has traced and illustrated his inquiry, from humanity to the lowest insects; and his conclusions are, that the foetal brain, at different periods, viz. 3d, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th months, is analogous successively to the brains of fishes, reptiles, birds, mammalia (*ruminantia*, *carnivora*), mammalia (*lower quadrumana*), and mammalia (*quadrumana*). The plates are as curious as the work.

*The Numismatic Journal.* Edited by J. Young Akerman, F.S.A. Nos. I., II., III. 8vo. pp. 207. London, 1837. Wilson, Jun.

WE have waited for the publication of three Nos. of this work (since June last), that we might have sufficient data for a correct judgment; and it affords us much gratification to state that, in our opinion, the editor is producing precisely such a work as is wanted. His subjects are all of high numismatic interest, not to mention their great historical and classical value; and his descriptions of them are at once clear, intelligible, and well-informed. The variety of curious matters to be found in every part relating to Jewish, Persian, Greek, Greek Colonial, Roman, Roman Colonial, Roman Consular, Roman Family, British, Saxon, English, &c. &c. &c. coinage, are a treat to the unlearned as well as to the learned. The publication will, we trust, be patronised, as it deserves to be, universally.

*Compendium of Lithotripsy, &c.* By Henry Belinaye. 8vo. pp. 215. London, 1837. Baillière.

THIS is one of the most complete and comprehensive treatises we have seen, on the means and effect of removing stone without incision. It brings down the history of the process to the present time; gives engraved specimens of the instruments used; and warmly advocates the adoption of this mode of curing a very painful and distressing disorder.

#### FRENCH WORKS.

*Théorie des Volcans.* Par le Comte A. De Bylandt Palsterscamp. With Atlas. 3 tomes, 8vo. 1835. Paris et Strasbourg, F. G. Levrault; London, Dulau.

AFTER thirty years of indefatigable research, the author has, in a luminous manner, developed what he designates as a new opening to science. He is well entitled to say, as he does of himself, and comparing with theoretical dogmatists, that he has not cited Nature before him as a judge, but interrogated her as a son would a mother. In a foreign tongue, and comprehensively treated, it is not within our scope to enter at large upon this able publication. It declares that there are no exceptions in nature: the whole which we witness results from the actions of solids and fluids.

The Count observes, that, though the mineralogy of volcanoes has been sedulously examined, there has been little or no inquiry into their causes and connexions. This philosophical course he has followed out, and submitted all the principal volcanoes in the world to test and investigation. The bare accounts of them and their phenomena are very interesting. Humboldt and Saussure appear to be the guides on whom he most surely relies: but his entire work, statements and inferences, is of a very important character. The following passage pretty accurately explains its object and opinions:

"Selon ma manière de voir, l'élévation des montagnes doit être attribuée à quatre causes, quelquefois isolées et quelquefois réunies. La première est due à l'éruption du feu igné central, dès la première époque du développement de la matière. La seconde, à l'affaissement de la croûte minérale après son extension, jusqu'au dernier point de son élasticité, effet du feu central dans l'exercice de toute sa puissance. La troisième, à l'éboulement d'une partie des couches souvent contradictoire dans la même montagne. La quatrième, enfin, est l'exaltation de la croûte supérieure par la passion intérieure dirigée vers l'extrémité sur quelques rayons du globe, lorsque la diminution de la force du feu central ne lui laissait plus que la puissance de soulever les points qui lui opposaient le moins de résistance; et c'est à cette dernière cause que j'attribue la direction verticale des roches et des couches qui se fait remarquer dans plusieurs montagnes; mon ouvrage développera ces idées."

The atlas is a striking and superb appendage to the three volumes of text.

*Manuel des Consuls.* Par Alex. de Miltitz. Tome I. 8vo. London and Berlin, 1837. Asher.

M. MILTITZ has here entered into and expounded the duties of consuls; and his volume is one eminently entitled to the attention of the commercial and diplomatic world. It is full of information on

*Etudes sur l'Economie Politique.* Par J. C. L. Simonde de Sismondi. Tome I. 8vo. London, 1837. Treuttel and Wurtz.

ANOTHER production of great value and in-



terest. It consists of essays on the most important questions, and they are treated in a very able and enlightened manner.

*Encyclopédie des Gens du Monde.* 8vo. Tome Septième. London, 1837. Same publishers. We lately noticed earlier volumes of this work. The present goes on with the letter D, and is quite equal to its precursors.

*Tales, in Prose, for the Young,* by Mary Howitt. Pp. 201. (London, Darton and Son.)—Never is the pen of this excellent person better employed than when tracing moral instruction for youth, and combining it with such playful fancies or attractive anecdotes as are calculated to pave its way most agreeably to the inquiring mind. The present is altogether a pretty volume. An anecdote of a bullfinch dying of sudden joy struck us much, and we believed it: but we were staggered by another of a raven abstracting all the knives, forks, and spoons, laid for a stage-coach company, and placing them for the chickens in the yard, while he ceremoniously fed them with bread! "Can such things be?"

*The Land Lock-Book, &c. &c.,* by Sarah Hoding. 12mo. pp. 278. (London, Simpkin and Marshall.)—A young lady, during a residence in America, was advised by a sailor to keep a lock-book, and assured her she would find it useful and entertaining on land as at sea: and this volume is the fruit of that advice. It is in verse, as well as prose, and, of course, light, sketchy, and miscellaneous, and we may add, somewhat flighty; which makes us regret to see it stated in the preface that it is the writer's last refuge against oppression and misfortune. We copy out a few of its most amusing and characteristic passages.

"Evealing—Oh! for something wonderful before the captain comes! Friend H. is gone out. Orlogs gone to bed. Neither moon nor nightingales: the former has not been able to see through the formidable rampart of clouds; and for the latter, there are none except a professional gentleman, in Walnut Street, Philadelphia, whose owner has an advertisement in his window, 'Birds taught by an English nightingale.' I wonder if the captain likes poetry: it will fill up, however."

"The Sea Nymph's Invitation to the Evening Star.

Bright Star of Evening, oh, whither away?  
A nymph of the dark wave entreats thee to stay;  
Or invites thee to roam

With her to her home,  
Where silvery fishes through coral groves play.

Bright Star of Evening, I pray thee don't fear  
To bathe thy fair face in the element clear;  
And our guest shalt thou be

While the queen of the sea  
Shall songs of the ocean sing sweetly to thee.

Bright Star of Evening, the foam-embosomed shell  
Shall bear thee where coral and sea-flowers dwell;  
There crowned shalt thou be

By the nymphs of the sea;  
Then come, brightest star, to our palace of pearl."

"Ten O'Clock.—So hot that the locust has not finished his song. I'm wrong; they say he sings the best in the heat. What a taste! what a taste! Nobody's been a locust to know, though; and if he sings when the thermometer's at 95, he will sing at any degree of heat. What a glorious sun! My word! he's lord of all. What an insignificant thing is man, skulking under cedar trees like cows, putting his consequence in his pocket, until, like the bats and owls, he may enjoy the beauties of nature. Whilst the Alleghany eagle, soaring in broad day, cries, 'I thought, my two-legged featherless brother, you said the creation was made for you; now you perceive no such thing; this blazing orb shines that I may have plenty of light to cheer me in my lofty flight; while you, proud man, cannot endure the heat, nor leave the planet on which you were hatched, any more than the rats.' Think of that. Oh, the pride of a human being! You men have never been able to make wings to help yourselves over a gutter."

"What an amusing man is Judge James: he says, in the old revolutionary war he was, I do not know what he called it, but head man at a court-martial, where an English spy was to be tried. The villain told the judge privately, he would give up a whole battalion to the Americans, if they would save his life. 'Your life, you rogue,' cried the judge; 'why, it is not worth saving. Would you give up your countrymen on such paltry conditions?' The poor fellow said he would; but the judge told him, 'No, that is impossible; if you, Moody (that was his name), have any thing to say or settle in this world, I will assist you, as I assure you your time on this earth is very short; and if you had died like a man, I should have thought much better of you. Why, if I could spare your life, in my opinion you are not worth saving.' Moody gave the judge his watch to send to his mother, and a small coin."

"Earthquakes are frequent at Carracas, the birth-place of Bolivar, who does not seem to think them so dreadful as we do."

"Bolivar's Verses.

Accept, dearest lady, for 'tis all I can give,  
My warmest thanks for your kindness to me;  
May you in the bosom of virtue long live,  
The friend of Columbia, and friend of the free."

Thy present will ever to my sight appear,

Though we are parted no more for to meet;

Thy kindness to me I still will revere,

With the grief of a friend and a tear of regret.

When far away, far away, on the billows I roam,

And the rough wave shall cast me on high;

I still will a glance revert to thy home,

Shed a tear of regret, and for my friend sigh.

When to my country I again shall return,

Far from the land which comprehends thee;

Though past recollection shall cause me to mourn,

Yet never shalt thou be forgotten by me.

'As a token of your kindness, and the present

which you honoured me with, I respectfully send to you these verses through the

hands of your brother.

'Your friend, 'F. BOLIVAR.'

Bolivar was only fifteen when this was written, and had been only one year in North America."

*The Star of La Scala.* Pp. 34. (London, Seguin.)—

Recollections of the performances of Malibran, in the autumn, in Italy, &c. are interspersed with notices of celebrated Italian singers, as yet unknown to this country.

Of these, Pasini and Salvatori (*the Otello and Iago of La Scala*) are highly applauded; the former, as a splendid tenor; the latter, as combining the finished execution of Tamburini with a voice of much greater compass. Freszolini is spoken of as a capital buffo.

*Results of the Crusades.* Pp. 60. (London, Barfield.)—

Two lectures delivered, in November last, at the Marylebone Literary Institution, by Mr. Macleod Wylie, and which reflect great credit upon his talents. The subject involves consequences of the deepest interest to the civilised world; and to have them so skillfully pointed out and traced, is no mean achievement. We are decidedly of Gibbon's opinion, that the blow given to the feudal system by the Crusades rather removed an evil than produced a benefit; but all Mr. Wylie's development of the question is well worthy of notice.

*Tales by Lord Byron, Vol. I.* (London, Murray.)—Following, as the ladies call it, "the love of a little volume," which contains "Childe Harold," Mr. Murray, with a charming view of Mount Paros, has here given us, in a small tome, the "Glaucus," "Bride of Abydos," the "Corsair," and "The Giaour," the popular Tales of the noble poet, whose works are acquiring even additional popularity through this gemlike edition.

*Grant's Advice to the Rich and Poor.* Pp. 41. (London, Grant and Co.)—Would the same advice suit both? We doubt it. At all events, the advice, in this very small book, is of not very original good, and has the rare value of not being prosy.

*Observations on Treatment and Cure of Ulcers,* by W. Eccles. (London, Wilson.)—A second edition, and embracing only the experience of the writer—not a general treatise—therefore deserving of attention.

*The Present State of the Claims of London,* by R. Ainslie. (London, Seeley.)—An earnest appeal for moral and religious instruction, and for measures to reclaim the erring and uncared-for idle and vicious population of London; instead of wasting efforts on distant objects. Some of the statistical statements of crime are appalling, but, we fear, too true.

*New Conversations, and Easy Dialogues, in the French, English, and German Languages,* by W. A. Bellender, newly arranged, with Additions, by Francis Coghlan. Pp. 210. (London, Baily and Co.)—Conversation is the easiest and quickest mode of learning to "speak" a language; and Mr. Coghlan has proved, in this little work, that that may be learned at one time, &c. &c.

Et madame vo— And how is your— And ihre frau tre mere? mother? mutter?

*The Purgatorio of Dante.* Translated by J. C. Wright. M.A. translator of the "Inferno." 8vo. pp. 476. (London, Longman and Co.; Nottingham, Dearden.)—We have to recommend this work to the lovers of Italian literature. To the English reader it will afford a sufficient idea of the great original.

*Sketch of the Life of Thomas Singularity, Journeyman Printer,* by Jeremiah Hopkins. Pp. 125. (London, Simpkin, Marshall, and Co.)—This is an odd volume, the life of a Journeyman Printer in America, who merited, if he did not bear, his singular name. Among his strange adventures, was service where the cazique M-Gregor reigned; and, by way of specimen, we give an extract relating thereto.

"Amelia Island, from the moment of M-Gregor's conquest, had been little better than a den of pirates. It had been selected on the principle on which a feudal baron placed his castle on a cross-road—as a convenient post for robbing in every direction. Vessels bearing patriot commissions granted here, but in fact not fitted out by the colonies, often from the United States, and in the United States, commanded by Americans, and manned by Americans, seized every Spanish merchantman, and frequently, on shallow pretences, or even without pretext at all, plundered the vessels of every nation. Goods were smuggled from hence into the United States by wholesale, and slaves sent into Georgia, Louisiana, and Mississippi. An asylum, too, was opened for runaway negroes, and for the most abandoned refugees from justice. As Spain was incapable of destroying this hornet's nest, the United States were forced, in self-defence, to take possession of the Floridas, and for that purpose despatched Major Bankhead and Commodore Henry with a competent land and sea force, against Amelia Island. A very seeing that nothing was to be gained by a contest, surrendered the fort on the 23d of December, 1817. Tommy [i. e. Singularity], in his little excursions during the

occupation of the island, had made a very pretty picking; but latterly, a run of ill-luck at cards had stripped him of all but his glory. After the patriots had surrendered their possessions, finding himself penniless, and without any method of reaching the United States, he enlisted under Major Bankhead, by which he got fifty dollars bounty, cash in hand. Many things soon occurred to disgust him with the service. The very day after enlisting, he was put under guard for merely appearing on parade a little excited. A report, also, got among the soldiers, that they were to be ordered off to Georgia, to fight against the Seminole Indians. This last intelligence determined him. Taking advantage of the night, he, and three other soldiers, deserted, seized on a boat, and, with a brisk breeze, reached St. Mary's, in Georgia. Some people have sneeringly reported that his principal reason for absconding was the fear of his having his fine head of hair scalped off by the savages; but I take it for granted, he acted on mature reflection. He never considered his enlistment binding in honour, as he had been led to it by necessity, or what lawyers would call duress."

*The Hulsean Dissertation for 1836,* by John Murray, B.A. (Cambridge, Deighton; Edinburgh, Blackwood.)—A very able pamphlet on the Miracles of Christ, written earnestly, in the spirit of piety, and with the aid of learning, for which Mr. Hulse bequeathed his annual prize.

*The Parterre for 1836.* (London, E. Wilson, jun.)—

The fifth volume of this agreeable miscellany, continues to be conducted with the same attention and discrimination as heretofore.

*James's Naval History.* Edited by Captain Brenton. Parts III. to VIII. inclusive. (London, Colburn.)—This excellent publication proceeds with regularity and vigour. Originally it was worthy of a great maritime nation, and of having a just account of its naval history; and under the eye of its present editor, it acquires new claims to consideration and applause.

*Relation de l'Entreprie du Prince Napoleon-Louis, par le Viconte F. de Perigny.* Pp. 60.—The author is a warm admirer and friend of the young scion of the family of Buonaparte, who so recently, and with so much success, revolutionised France. He ascribes this to fatality, and speaks of the leader as being of a noble mind, and actuated by the purest motives. If, he says, the partial movements which have prevailed in the country are not proof of general discontent, and the preludes to another order of things, Prince Louis was misinformed and misled; if they are, he was only premature and unfortunate.

## ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE.

Berlin, 14th January.

The story of the Friar Vincente of Barcelona, who is said to have been tried there, on account of murder, instigated solely by his love of books, has made the round of your and of our journals.

A very intelligent German, in that town, writes to Berlin that no such trial has occurred there; and that the Barcelonense inhabitants were first made acquainted with this story by a French paper. But not even the Italian saying, "Si non e vero, e ben trovato," is to be applied to it; for the invention is solely due to our celebrated Berlinian author, Hoffman, who, in his excellently written novel, "Milde de Scuderi," described the monomania of the Parisian goldsmith, Cardillac, who, for a long series of years, killed all persons that bought jewels set by him.

The work of your countryman, Mr. John Kemble, "On the Genealogy of the West Saxons," written in the German language, and dedicated to our best German scholar, James Grimm, not only gratifies the national pride of the Germans, to see their language used by foreigners, but is truly an enlargement of our literature; competent critics pronounce, that there is not one solecism against the idiom to be found in the whole book.

I have already dilated, in a former letter, on the corruptious and abuses of our universities; but forgot to mention the following:—Some professors, independent in fortune, read so few lectures in the week, that, measuring their salary by the number of their lecturing hours, without reckoning what they receive from their hearers, they are paid one pound sterling for each hour—an immense sum for this country. At one university, it has been found necessary to fine the professors for each lecturing hour they omit without assigning a sufficient cause. Here, at Berlin, our great philologist, Frederic Augustus Wolf, used to announce four hours a-week, but often came

only once: when it was bad weather, of course he could not go out; and, when good, a drive in the Tiergarden was necessary for his health. Another corruption of our universities, and a much more important one, is, that only such young men frequent them as intend entering into the service of their respective governments, after having passed their examinations. Now, this almost general usage degrades those institutions to mere places for drilling government *employés*, whilst they ought to promote the vastly more essential object of spreading science among all classes of the people.

A striking characteristic of the methodism in our country is the republication of the works of that mystic natural philosopher, Jacob Boehme. In an age when almost every word which that enthusiast wrote on natural philosophy has been exploded by experiments, to the demonstration of the most obtuse intellect, our pietists not only ignore this, but try to palm the old mystic trash on the present generation as sound sense! but this need be no subject of wonder, when we have here, at our own university, a professor of divinity who scruples not to pronounce, in his *Ecclesiastical Gazette*, that, because of the hereditary sin of human nature, "he is ashamed to be a human being!" Really, the pious professor ought to relieve himself of that painful feeling; for the notion of a human being implying *reason*, none will dare to impute that shame to him who proves himself so totally devoid of it.

#### ARTS AND SCIENCES. ROYAL INSTITUTION.

THE following is our promised report of Mr. Faraday's development of Signor Mossotti's late researches in connexion with electricity, gravitation, &c.—The suspicion, or expectation, that such results of natural causes as gravitation, electrical attractions, chemical action, aggregation, and even organisation, were the consequences of one general and simple law, has been common property for a long time, hundreds having put forth notions corresponding with it. But the beauty of Signor Mossotti's developments consists in this,—that, assuming a certain simple state of matter and electricity, he shows that such different phenomena as gravitation, cohesion, and the ordinary statical attractions and repulsions exhibited by electricity, flow as necessary consequences from it. In gravitation we have a power of attraction exerted by masses acting through almost infinite distances, binding even sidereal systems together; and, by Newton's researches, this is shown to depend upon an attractive action of the particles of the masses—the force of attraction being inversely as the square of the distance. In the force constituting aggregation or cohesion we have the power which holds the particles of solids and liquids together; and there are many beautiful experiments which show that the particles of bodies under the influence of this force are not in contact; and, further, that, if brought nearer to each other than in their natural state, they exert a repulsive force; if removed further from each other they exhibit an attractive force; these two forces being of very high power—but the law according to which they increase and decrease, not being as yet ascertained. In common electrical attractions and repulsions, the experiments of Coulomb have shown that both sets of effects are produced by forces varying inversely as the square of the distance. Franklin accounted for electrical attractions and repulsions, by supposing one electrical fluid, having strong repulsions for its own particles, but

strong attraction for matter. Epinus and Cavendish demonstrated, mathematically, that if the particles of this electric fluid were repulsive of each other, with a force varying inversely as the square of the distance, whilst the mutual attraction between them and matter was inversely as the square of the distance; and, also, if the particles of matter exerted mutual repulsive forces, varying inversely as the square of the distance,—then, all common electric attractions and repulsions could be accounted for. Coulomb and Poisson objected to this theory, that it assumed matter as possessing attractive and repulsive forces at the same moment of time, and according to the same law; a theory contradictory in itself: and the latter, therefore, assumed two electric fluids; and, by giving them attractive and repulsive forces, inversely as the square of the distance, accounted for electrical phenomena, but left no evident tie between these fluids and matter. Dr. Roget, ten years ago, so far justified the theory of Epinus as to show that his assumptions were not contradictory, but that it might be that gravitation resulted from a mere excess of one of the attractions; and now Mossotti has brought the power of his mathematical attainments to bear upon the subject. He assumes, with Epinus, one electric fluid or ether, the attractions and repulsions of this and matter being as already expressed; except that the repulsive force of matter is not quite so great as its attractive force for electricity, or the repulsion of the particles of electricity amongst themselves. With such a constitution, he shows that every particle of matter will have, as it were, an atmosphere of electricity condensed around it; that these particles, so furnished, will have independent, or true molecular attractions; that, at a distance, they will gravitate according to Newton's law; that, as they approach each other, their mutual attraction will, at invisible distances, increase to a high degree, then suddenly diminish, become null, and, at still nearer distances, become repulsive, giving thus the phenomena of aggregation; and, finally, that all common electrical attractions and repulsions are as fully accounted for as in Poisson's theory. Thus, a great step is made towards the simplicity of a general law; and the thanks of all are due to Mossotti, for shewing us the possibility and probability of the one he has supported being a true one.

#### ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

THE usual monthly meeting was held on Thursday afternoon, the Rev. J. Barlow in the chair. About a dozen individuals were elected fellows. Balance in favour of the Society, carried to account on 1st February, 230*6*l. 7*s*. 4*d*.; visitors to museum and gardens during January last, 1835: stock on hand, 294 mammalia, 693 birds, 21 reptiles—total, 1008 subjects. A committee of accounts was appointed, and many valuable donations were announced. From a number of notes by Mr. Williamson, curator to the Natural History Society, Manchester, on the appearance of rare birds in the vicinity of Scarborough, we select the following:—The great or thick-kneed plovers breed on the falds, and often startle the midnight traveller by their shrill and ominous whistle. This is supposed to be the note so beautifully alluded to by Sir Walter Scott, in the "Lady of the Lake"—

"And in the plover's shrilly strain  
The signal whistle's heard again:"

for it certainly sounds more like a human note than that of a bird. The hooded crow has been known to breed near Scarborough on two or

three occasions. In one instance, a female hooded crow was observed to pair with a carrion crow, on a large tree at Hackness, where they succeeded in rearing their young. The carrion crow was shot by the gamekeeper; but the following year the hooded crow returned with a new mate, of the same sable hue as the former one, to her old nest. The carrion and young crows were again all shot: the old female, by her vigilance, escaped all the efforts of the keepers to destroy her, and a third time returned with a fresh mate. She was not again, however, so successful; but was shot, and is now preserved in the Scarborough museum. The young birds varied; some resembling the hooded, and others the carrion crow, in their plumage.

#### GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

WEDNESDAY, Mr. Lyell, president, in the chair. A notice on the occurrence of keuper sandstone in the upper region of the poikililic system, or new red sandstone formation, of England and Wales, by Dr. Buckland, was first read. The author had for many years suspected that certain beds of sandstone, in Warwickshire and other parts of the kingdom, are referable to the keuper formation of Germany; but it was not until his visit to the Continent, in the autumn of 1835, that he was enabled to determine satisfactorily the identity of the English with the foreign strata. The formations, in Germany and France, which occur next beneath the lias, are,—first, the keuper, a considerable series of beds of marl and sandstone; secondly, the muschelkalk, a limestone characterised by peculiar organic remains; and, thirdly, a system of red sandstone, called in Germany *bunter sandstein*, and in France *grès bizarre*. In England the muschelkalk has not yet been detected, and geologists have, therefore, found it extremely difficult to separate the sandstones at the lower part of the red marl from those which constitute the great mass of the red sandstones of Warwickshire, Cheshire, and many other counties. Dr. Buckland, however, has long had in his possession the remains of a saurian, which he considers generically identical with the *phytosaurus* of the keuper of Württemberg; and from a careful comparison of the quarries of Sinzheim and Stuttgart with the sandstones which, he had conceived, might represent in England a portion of the keuper, he has decided that they are equivalent deposits. In the neighbourhood of Warwick, keuper sandstone occupies a considerable surface, extending, in breadth, from the banks of the Avon, under Warwick castle, near to the village of Kenilworth, and constitutes Guy's cliff, the excavations connected by tradition with Guy of Warwick being in this rock. Another good section of the sandstone is laid open in the excavation which forms the entrance into Warwick castle. Near the north-east extremity of the new town of Leamington, keuper sandstone is covered by red rock marl, and some of the wells in the brick-yards are sunk through the red marl into the sandstone. Mr. Murchison has observed deposits of keuper sandstone at Tibberton, between Gloucester and Newent; at Ripple, near Tewkesbury; and at Bury Hill, on the south of Malvern. In Somersetshire, it has been ascertained by Dr. Buckland to occur at Sutton Mallet, about six miles east of Bridgewater; and in Glamorganshire, at Pyle, between Bridgend and Neath. At the last locality the surface of some of the beds of sandstone is partially covered with thin layers of green clay, cracked or fissured in the same manner as mud dried by exposure to



the atmosphere; and the cracks are filled by the sand of the stratum resting immediately upon the marl. On the Continent, keuper sandstones are extensively used in building; and, in this country, were employed in the construction of the town-walls, castles, churches, and other ancient edifices of Warwick. The beautiful towers, and the bridge of Taunton, were built from the keuper quarries about three miles distant. The cathedral of Exeter is also constructed of an olive-coloured sandstone, said to have been obtained from Exmouth; and Dr. Buckland has recently ascertained that two strata of a similar stone occur in the sea cliffs at Orham, about two miles east of Exmouth. The churches and towers of the adjacent villages of Withecomb and Littleham are likewise composed of the same kind of sandstone; and Margam Castle, near Neath, has been recently rebuilt from the Pyle quarries. The only organic remains hitherto noticed in this formation, in England, are the remains of saurians, near Warwick; and obscure fragments of vegetables. A paper on the Geological Structure of the *arrondissement* of Cherbourg, by the Rev. W. B. Clarke, F.G.S., was then read. The district described in this memoir consists, principally, of several varieties of argillaceous and talcose slate, and quartz rock, irregularly associated. A minute description is given of each variety, as well as of the passage of one formation into the other; details which do not admit of being communicated in an abridged form.

## BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

ON Thursday, Mr. J. E. Gray, president, in the chair, donations of plants, collected by the servants of the Hudson's Bay Company, on their journey between York Fort, Hudson's Bay, and the Columbia River, across the Rocky Mountains, presented by James Webster, Esq. were announced.—Specimens of *Lycopodium pallescens*, from South America, were exhibited. A paper was then read from Mr. Freeman, "On a more systematic method in describing and arranging the species of plants." It appeared from this, that in all the Floras of this country which had come under the notice of the writer, a particular description is given for each species; and these descriptions are without any systematic arrangement of characters, except that, occasionally, when the species belonging to a genus are very numerous, they are sometimes divided into groups; no account is taken of the relative value of characters, but it is left to a person's own judgment or experience to determine which characters are essential and invariable, and which are inconstant and apt to vary. A discussion took place upon this paper between the president and Dr. Macreight; after which, the continuation of Mr. G. E. Dennes' paper on the plants found about Deal, Walmer, and Dover, Kent, was read; by which it appeared that he had found about that district 84 genera and 120 species. The meeting then adjourned for a fortnight.

## NEW PUBLICATIONS.

*Scientific Memoirs, selected from the Transactions of Foreign Academies of Science and Learned Societies, and from Foreign Journals.* Edited by Richard Taylor, F.S.A. Parts I. and II.

THE great expediency, if not the necessity, for a periodical of this description, must be acknowledged by every scientific person, and especially by those who, at the meetings of the British Association, have found so much time

wasted on pseudo-discoveries which had been already promulgated in the proceedings of foreign societies, and so much useless clashing of opinions upon questions no longer at issue, having been settled by decisive experiments made by philosophers in other countries. Thus, whether for the particular information of parties engaged in interesting pursuits, or for the general diffusion of intelligence, valuable to the public at large, a work like this of Mr. Taylor's has been a great desideratum.

The two quarterly parts before us (August and November) contain very valuable papers: Melloni's experiments on radiant heat; M. Dove's experiments on the circular polarisation of light, with an account of his apparatus; M. Savart's researches on the elasticity of crystallised bodies; M. Nobili's curious system of Metalochromy, or new chromatic scale of colours for scientific and practical purposes; Poisson's mathematical theory of heat; Dr. Löwig's experiments on the essential oil of the meadow-sweet; Baron Walknaer's learned essay on the insects mentioned by all the most ancient authors as infesting the vine; Dr. Carus on the kingdoms of nature, their life and affinity; M. Balard on the bleaching compounds of chlorine; and E. Lenz on the laws of the conducting powers of wires. All these are striking contributions to the advancement of science and knowledge; and they shew us in what manner, and to what purposes, the genius of France, Germany, and Italy, is directed. All that we shall venture to add is in the way of suggestion. If a brief analysis, or even notice, of the most recent experiments and discoveries in these countries were practicable, it would be an immense improvement on the publication; and we trust that public encouragement would reward the exertion and requite the expense. There is much trouble, we are aware (for we have tried), in having the transactions of learned bodies abroad transmitted to this country of taxes and imposts; but what we propose might be sufficiently attained by a well regulated correspondence. But, let us be grateful for what Mr. Taylor has done, and is doing; thereby conferring a great benefit upon the science and scientific men of England.\*

*A Complete Scientific and Popular Treatise upon Perspective; with the Theories of Reflection and Shadows.* By a Pupil of Monsieur J. P. Thérat. Illustrated with Twenty-four Plates. 8vo. pp. 152. London, 1836. Simpkin and Marshall.

As far as we have been able to examine this little volume (which comes out with singular happiness at a time when the importance of diffusing the elements of correct and tasteful drawing is generally felt and acknowledged), it seems to be exceedingly well calculated for the object which it has in view. There is a preface to it, from the pen of Mr. A. W. Hake-will, member of the Architectural Society of London, in which the claims of perspective to the attentive study of all artists (especially of architects), are set forth with clearness and force.

## LITERARY AND LEARNED.

## UNIVERSITY INTELLIGENCE.

Oxford, Jan. 26, the Rev. T. Stone, M.A., of St. John's College, Cambridge, was admitted *ad eundem*, and the following degrees were conferred:

*Doctor in Divinity*.—F. C. Plumtre, Master of University College.

*Bachelor in Divinity*.—C. Williams, Fellow of Jesus College.

*Masters of Arts*.—D. Butler, Rev. O. Fox, Lincoln

\* Part III. has just reached us (Friday).

College; J. G. Domville, Christ Church; R. Blackburn, Fellow, T. Prothero, Brasenose College.  
*Bachelors of Arts*.—G. Mellish, University College; Grand Compounder; F. M. Rowden, Wadham College; W. C. F. Webber, W. G. Penny, Students; J. R. O. Gore, Christ Church; R. Kent, Brasenose College; W. Robbins, Worcester College.

## ROYAL SOCIETY.

THURSDAY, Mr. Baily in the chair.—The paper read was Observations on Electro-Chemical Influence at Weak Tension, by Mr. Bird, of Guy's Hospital. The author, in the commencement of his paper, notices the researches and results obtained by Davy, Becquerel, and other philosophers, in reference to the tolerably well-known modes of effecting the reduction of oxides by weak electric currents. He then describes the apparatus by which a continuous current, for some weeks, may be obtained, and by which he reduced copper, lead, silver, &c.; producing, by the first, beautiful crystals of metallic copper; by the second, elegant crystal feathers of metallic lead; by the third, crystals of dazzling whiteness, most commonly in the form of needles; and so forth. Lastly, Mr. Bird details the effects produced with silicon, bismuth, manganese, potassium (with which he failed), and ammonia, which afforded the most conclusive and satisfactory results; and concludes by observing, that, on a review of his experiments, he could not help being struck with the powers of continuous electricity at a weak tension. Cessation, even for a moment, is fatal to success.

## ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY.

JANUARY 21. Richard Clarke, Esq. the chair.—Various donations to the library were laid upon the table. A paper on the fate of the Ten Tribes of Israel after the fall of Samaria, by the late T. M. Dickenson, Esq. of the Bombay Civil Service, was read to the meeting. The writer, in this essay, acutely investigates the several opinions which have obtained currency among the learned as to the location of the captive Israelites after the destruction of their kingdom. He considers the opinions of Bochart and Sir William Jones, on this subject, to be without good foundation; but he leaves the question undecided, supposing it more probable that the children of Israel were not long preserved as a separate people. He is inclined, however, to afford more consideration than recent writers have been induced to give to the idea which was advocated so warmly by the early settlers in the New World—that the North American Indians were of Hebrew origin. This opinion, Mr. Dickenson states, was first suggested to John Elliot (the Indian evangelist, as he is sometimes called) by a Mr. Winslow, a commercial agent in New England, about 1549. It was subsequently maintained by several other writers; and supported by arguments drawn from many striking peculiarities which characterise the manners, customs, religious rites, physiognomy, &c. of the American Indians. He then adverts to the black Jews of Malabar, who are invariably termed Beni-Israel, or Israelites, and not Jews, as the followers of the law of Moses are elsewhere designated; and thinks that their origin and history are well deserving investigation; but concludes with observing, that, although the exiles of Samaria should any where be preserved as a separate people, the difficulty of distinguishing them from their brothers of Jerusalem, will, most probably, be an insuperable bar to any thing like a certain decision upon their ultimate fate.

## SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES.

THE Earl of Aberdeen in the chair.—Sir Henry Ellis exhibited a plan of the Roman road between Silchester and Staines, part of the ancient road from London to Bath, very neatly executed by some officers of the Royal Military College at Sandhurst. Mr. Sydney Smirke communicated a description of the Norman remains in Westminster Hall, exhibited last week; and concluded by observing, that the government deserved the thanks of all the admirers of that fine building for the liberal and effective repairs executed there; while he deprecated the site of part of the intended parliamentary buildings, which will block up all the east windows of the hall, lately opened, and destroy the great south window.

## NUMISMATIC SOCIETY.

WE rejoice to find that a few gentlemen of eminence in the study of numismatology, having consulted together on the expediency of forming a society for the cultivation and encouragement of this interesting branch of science, finally adopted the resolution to carry such a plan into effect. A first meeting, accordingly, took place in the apartments of the Royal Astronomical Society, Somerset House, on Thursday evening, the 26th January, Edward Hawkins, Esq. F.R.S. in the chair. A paper was read to the Society by the secretary, on the Farthings of Queen Anne, contributed by Sir Henry Ellis, K.H. Dr. Lee, the president, presented several works on medals, and some coins; and the meeting adjourned to Thursday fortnight. Letters were read from several gentlemen, (among others, the Dean of St. Patrick's, Dublin); all expressing the warmest wishes for the prosperity of the Society, which already reckons upwards of 100 members.

LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS  
FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

*Monday*.—Entomological, 8 P.M.  
*Tuesday*.—Linnæan, 8 P.M.; Horticultural, 2 P.M.; Civil Engineers, 8 P.M. (Architectural Essay, by G. G. Scott).  
*Wednesday*.—Society of Arts, 7½ P.M.; Graphic, 8 P.M.; Literary Fund, 3 P.M.; Club, 5½ P.M.; Medico-Botanical, 8 P.M.  
*Thursday*.—Royal Society, 8½ P.M.; Antiquaries, 8 P.M.; Royal Society of Literature, 4 P.M.  
*Friday*.—Royal Astronomical, 3 P.M. (Anniversary); Royal Institution, 8½ P.M. (Dr. Ritchie on the Velocity of Sound, and the Discrepancy existing hitherto between Theory and Experiment.)

## FINE ARTS.

EXHIBITION AT THE GALLERY OF THE  
BRITISH INSTITUTION.

This gallery was opened to the public on Monday last, and it is but justice to say, that the present exhibition is equal in merit to most of its predecessors. To expect that, either collectively or individually, art can go on, like manufactures, in regular, progressive, annual improvement, is to expect more than is reasonable. Occasionally, when painters are suddenly inspired, or, in more familiar phrase, have "their lucky moments," something extraordinary is produced; but, otherwise, their works are, generally speaking, of a tolerably uniform and consistent character.

Before we notice the performances with which the walls of the gallery are this year decorated, we must advert to the great amendment which has been made in the gallery itself. The light in the south room, which was formerly considered as a sort of condemned hole, has been so materially improved, that the pictures in it are seen to as much advantage as in either of the other apartments; and the removal of

the keeper's closet in the middle room, is another obvious amendment.

In this, as in almost all collections of art (ancient or modern) which we have seen, there are a few productions of pre-eminent beauty, many highly respectable, and some—what we will not designate. We will begin by referring to two or three of the first-mentioned class.

182. *Rent-day, in the Sixteenth Century, at Haddon Hall, Derbyshire.* J. C. Horsley.—Horsley? With the exception of the celebrated bishop, we do not remember ever having heard the name before: certainly, no picture by such an artist was ever before brought under our notice. "Therefore, as a stranger," we were disposed to "give it welcome." But Mr. Horsley has claims upon our consideration much stronger than those of courtesy. A more successful *début* in art we never witnessed. It is one of the most attractive performances in the rooms. The scene is the steward's apartment in that noble and ancient edifice, engravings from designs of various parts of which, by Mr. Catermole, were recently noticed in the *Literary Gazette*. At a table in the foreground sit the venerable steward and himself, with his ledger before him; and, on his left-hand, his assistant, carefully weighing the gold which has been received from the tenants. At the foot of the table stands a sturdy farmer, respectfully making a statement or remonstrance, to which the steward is attentively and benevolently listening. In the background is a graceful page, to whom two favourite greyhounds are testifying their attachment; and a door, which opens to the corridor, discloses a charming but modest girl filling a horn cup with some refreshing beverage for two cavaliers, who are gazing at her with the admiration that her beauty naturally excites. The whole is simply, chastely, and admirably managed; the parts are painted with the utmost care and truth, and, at the same time, with singular felicity; and the effect of light very much resembles, and is equal to, De Hooze. "But who," exclaims the reader, "is this 'great unknown,' who thus leaps into the arena of art, armed at all points, like Minerva issuing from the head of Jupiter?" Gentle sir, or madam (as the case may be), we have inquired, for the express purpose of satisfying you; and we understand that he is a nephew of Mr. Callcott's. And now your wonder ceases. Yet, how few there are who could have availed themselves so happily of the instruction and guidance of that highly gifted and experienced artist! The nephew is worthy of the uncle, and the uncle of the nephew.

272. *Love.* C. W. Cope.

"Love, in the virgin-breast of Beauty lying,  
Laughs at the fate he doth for her prepare;  
Will swiftly turn her sweetest smiles to sighing,  
And flee when she is fixed in despair."

A circular composition, full of beautiful expression, especially the countenance of the sly little god; but its chief charm is its colouring, than which nothing can be richer and mellower. The half-tints of the flesh, especially, are delightfully clear, pure, and transparent. We like to see lights loaded (as the technical phrase goes); but philosophers say there is reason in the roasting of eggs; and we confess that we think the patch on Cupid's shoulder is rather too sudden and prominent. In fact, it casts a shadow, which detracts from the purpose for which it was placed there.

120. *Regulus.* J. M. W. Turner, R.A.—It has pleased Mr. Turner in this, as in numerous other cases,—witness his "Juliet and the

Nurse," in the last (alas, the last!) exhibition at Somerset House,—to give a name to a gorgeous assemblage of splendid hues, which has no, or scarcely any, connexion with the subject indicated in the title. In the work to which we have just adverted, it was not until after considerable research that we discovered, or thought we discovered (for, to the present moment, we are not sure of the fact), Juliet and her Nurse perched, like sparrows, on a house-top. *Regulus!* There is certainly a little group of little men, rolling a little spiked cask into a little boat; but, *au reste!* Nevertheless, who could have painted such a picture but Mr. Turner? What hand but his could have created such splendid harmony? Who is there so profoundly versed in the arrangement and management of colours? His sun absolutely dazzles the eyes. Those who have never beheld that glorious orb in other climes, undimmed by the mists and vapours which "tone it down" in our northern regions, will probably think Mr. Turner's representation of it too brilliant. They may depend upon it, they are wrong.

26. *The Twin Sisters.* Mrs. Carpenter.—Of this lady her sex ought to be, and, we have no doubt, are proud. The present is one of her most charming performances. It is like Lawrence, in grace of drawing, and vivacity of expression; but it is much superior to him in colour.

3. *Pilot-Boat running into St. Peter's, Guernsey.* 19. *Rigging-Hulk and Frigate at Portsmouth.* 40. *On the Beach of St. Lawrence, Isle of Wight.* 41. *An Interior, with Fish.* 42. *Vessel on the Sands at Hastings.* E. W. Cooke.—When we cast our eyes on these delightful productions, we felt as if Mr. Cooke had done us a personal favour in painting them; for, from his first appearance in the graphic world, we foretold his eminence,—and every prophet likes to see his predictions accomplished. Talk of the Flemish school! It must be one of the very finest works of that school which could for a moment stand in competition with any of the above-named pictures. Their execution is miraculous. Mr. Cooke's pencil is tender, or forcible, as the occasion demands. Where solidity is required, he is like marble; glass is not more diaphanous than are his tints when he wishes for transparency. But the great foundation of his excellence (as it is the foundation of the excellence of every genuine artist) is his knowledge of drawing. In his works you see no shirking from the distinct detail of forms, even in cases in which a little slurring of those forms might be pardoned. For instance, let any one look at the cart, horses, and figures, in the middle distance of No. 42: the aerial perspective is perfectly preserved; but the group is defined with a precision and beauty, which would render it a valuable little picture of itself, if it were cut out of the canvass. In some respects, however, No. 41 is transcendent.

(To be continued.)

*Panorama.*—A new picture opens to-day in this national class of art; which, whether we consider it in relation to its local interest, the difficulty of the undertaking, or its success and excellence as a work of art, has impressed us with a conviction that it will become the most attractive that has been exhibited since the days of Waterloo. Thousands of our countrymen who have visited the Vale of Chamouny will here renew their recollections; thousands who intend to visit the Alps will go, in anticipation of the enjoyment; and

thousands who have been there will take their friends, to shew where they have travelled, and tell their tales over again of dangers and enjoyments encountered on the Montauvert, the source of the Arveron, the Mont Brevin, and the Flégère. There is a vastness, a depth below the observer, a height above him, which we have never seen attained before in art: not even in panoramic painting—the only means by which such scenes can be represented. We advise all to see it who ever derived enjoyment from a panorama; and we most heartily wish that the patronage of the public may give it all the success it so richly merits, for the care, the exertion, the expense, and the talent, which Mr. Burford has devoted to this splendid work.

#### NEW PUBLICATIONS.

*Cooper's Drawing-Book of Animals and Rustic Figures.* Tilt.

WE have already noticed some of the early Numbers of this publication. The series is now complete, and forms a very pleasing collection of "progressive studies, drawn from nature." To the young landscape-painter, especially, this will be a very useful publication, as it will shew him how he may introduce life into his representations of fine scenery, without being guilty of those inaccuracies in drawing, and that tastelessness in grouping, by which some of the best productions of the landscape pencil are frequently deformed.

*A Political Alphabet.* London, Maclean.

THE name of Grant is upon this alphabetical series of caricatures, which will serve to pull out; and amuse a vacant half-hour. Some of the subjects have good hits at things of the day; and the letters L, M, and N, in particular, are not a little malicious.

#### MUSIC.

*Drury Lane.*—The "grand concert" at this theatre, on Monday evening, turned out to be no nuisance. A band of the first order; the vocal strength of the Opera Buffa, added to a fair proportion of native talent; an excellent chorus; and a selection made with great judgment, including the first part of Haydn's "Creation," and many other classical and attractive compositions,—formed, altogether, a musical treat of a very superior kind. The only fault of the selection was its extreme length, the bill of fare containing abundant materials for two similar entertainments. We are resolved to wage interminable war against the cramming system pursued in this country by managers and directors of concerts. It is the grossest injustice, both to compositions and performers, to be placed at the latter part of an entertainment four or five hours long; because a large proportion of the audience must, by that time, have their mental and physical capacity for enjoyment much blunted, if not entirely exhausted. It is impossible for us to enter very minutely into particulars. The charming voice and cultivated style of Mademoiselle Blasis, and the pure and powerful tenor of Catone, are now too well known to require comment. Madame Giannoni (who unites a high order of vocal accomplishment to much personal attraction), and the rest of the Opera Buffa performers, merit high commendation. Miss Fanny Wyndham is amongst the most promising of our rising native songstresses. Nature has given her a voice delightfully mellow, rich, and even; and instruction of the very best kind has taught her to emit its tones with the utmost purity and facility. Her near namesake, Miss

Fanny Woodham, exhibits indications of taste and refinement fully sufficient to warrant her in the possession of much more courage than she has yet been able to acquire. Her talent, partially obscured as it was by her excessive timidity, was sufficiently conspicuous to elicit an animated encore in the "Flower Girl," a graceful ballad of recent date. This gave her more self-possession; and, as a natural consequence, more command of voice in her next song, Mozart's "Parto," in which she had the advantage of being accompanied by Willman. Miss Romer has the bad habit of incessantly urging on the time, and her style is rendered extremely ungraceful by her not dwelling sufficiently on the accented and significant notes of her musical phrases. Standing so high as she does in public estimation, Miss Romer can afford to pardon and profit by these unpardonable remarks; nor will she fail to do both, if the soundness of her understanding equal the beauty of her voice. The frivolous insipidity of the song selected by Mr. Wilson from *Fra Diavolo*, is unredeemed by any superior excellence in the arrangement. It is a worthless picture, set in an ordinary frame, and we marvel much that a singer possessing so much taste and feeling should have made such a choice. Many of the choruses, which were admirably selected, received a well-merited encore, as did the overture to *Guillaume Tell*. Beethoven's lovely septet for the family of stringed instruments, with clarinet, horn, and bassoon, played—exquisitely, of course—by Messrs. Mori, Moralt, Lindley, Dragonetti, Willman, Puzzi, and Baumann, was perfectly delicious, in a building so favourable as this is to musical resonance. It is highly gratifying to record, especially when we consider the mixed kind of audience assembled on this occasion, that those compositions which were of the highest class were, throughout the evening, listened to with the most profound attention, and, on some occasions, with the most evident delight. Among the vocalists who deserve honourable mention, were Messrs. Balfé, Seguin, and Giubilei. Q.

#### NEW PUBLICATIONS.

WE have been some time a little in arrears with our musical reviews; which, we excuse to the state of not being a *Guide to the Theory of Practical Double Bass*, &c. by A. Devaux. (Cramer, Addison, and Co.)—The instructive portion of this work deserves great praise; and the learner will have equal cause to be pleased with the numerous exercises, and the fine selections from Purcell, Gluck, Winter, Novello, Balisshah, and other distinguished composers.

*Songs from a Foreign Land.* The Poetry by T. H. Bayley, Esq.; Music composed, selected, and arranged, by A. D. Roche. (Power).—A most beautiful book of songs; especially the first two. We have not seen so lovely a collection for many months.

*A Fifth Set of Songs.* The Music by Mrs. Robert Arkwright. (Power).—We are sorry that we cannot continue to praise Mrs. Arkwright's music in this set. The words of some of the songs are by our best poets; but neither for these, nor for the lesser stars, are the compositions of sufficient interest or expression to warrant our panegyric. *The Child and the Hours*, a Duet, written by H. Brandreth; composed by P. H. Loder. (Luff).—Beautiful words for music; and music worthy of the words.

*A Coronet may Gild thy Brow.* Words by the Rev. W. Fletcher; Music by J. D. Roche. (Dean).—This charming song was sung by Miss Rainsforth, with great effect, at the file clumpets on behalf of the admirable Institution, the Royal Dispensary for Diseases of the Ear. It is an affecting reflection, that the efforts of such a charity are directed to enable the sufferers to enjoy the delights of melody, and the enchantments of harmony.

*Flowers were never half so sweet.* Composed by Alexander Lee. (Lee).—A very sweet ballad; as is also *The Two Weddings.* Haynes Bayley; and Music by J. P. Knight. (Mori and Lavenue.)

*Wake, wake, mine own Love.* Serenade: words by Mrs. S. Davida. Composed by T. Baker. (J. Cooper).—*Lament on the Death of Amy Claude.* Edward Crue. (D'Almaine and Co.) *Yonder Bark*, a ballad, by R. Bennett, Esq. Composed by G. L. Newson. (Mori and Lavenue).—Three songs for which we have little to say in accents of praise.

*Brilliant Variations on the Canarina Cantra diva, from Bel-*

*lini's "Morna," for the Piano-forte,* by F. H. Oldfield. (Shade).—These variations are exceedingly clever. They are, we understand, the first composition of a Mr. F. H. Oldfield; and we recommend them to all young pianoforte players.

*Quadrilles,* by T. A. Weber, pupil of Kalliwoda. (J. Dean).—A very light and pretty set of quadrilles.

*A Collection of Sacred Music from the Works of Handel, Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Novello, &c.* (Novello).—To the lovers of sacred music we strongly recommend this volume. In addition to the above composers we have several original compositions, harmonised by Mr. W. Wilson.

*The Coronet: a Collection of Songs from favourite and popular Writers.* Music by Mr. Alexander Kerr. (Willis and Co.).—Another beautiful set of songs, with sweet music. The first is decidedly the prettiest in the book; and, altogether, we hope this volume will be appreciated as it deserves. The dedication to the Princess Augusta is in favour not undeserved by the merits of the accomplished composer.

*The Royal Room.* Words by Mr. George Moore; Music by G. F. Stanbury. (Hawes).—Appropriately dedicated to the parent tree, her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent. This is a really lovely glee for three voices; the music is highly creditable to the pen of Mr. Stanbury.

*Merry, merry go the Bells.* A Glee for Four Voices. (Dale, Cockerill, and Co.).—A beautifully arranged accompaniment to Kirke White's words. We need hardly say how good it is, when we add that Mr. Richards, the composer, has just been elected King's Scholar, at the Royal Academy of Music.

*The Corsair: a Sonnet.* The Poetry by the late Lord Byron; the Music by Alexander Lee. (Lee).—Beautiful music, well adapted to Lord Byron's beautiful words.

*A Favourite New Waltz, with an ad libitum Guitar Accompaniment,* composed by H. Sperati. (Chappell).—Very simple and pretty.

*The Soldier in Red, and the Sailor in Blue.* (Jefferys and Co.).—Spirit-stirring words, by Mr. Lewis Way, with excellent music by Shelton. This patriotic song must be popular.

*A First Set of Songs, and a Duet.* The Poetry by T. Haynes Bayley, Esq. (D'Almaine and Co.).—Seven of Haynes Bayley's delightful songs, with splendid music by Henri Herz. This is a book to adorn the music-stand, and charm the evening.

#### DRAMA.

*Adelphi.*—Mr. Yates gave a medley entertainment on Monday, no performance being allowed, on account of the anniversary of the martyrdom of King Charles. A very attractive bill of fare drew a crammed house; and every body appeared in good-humour. In the first place, we had Mr. Love, with his *polyphonus* entertainment; then the Arabs; then Mr. Thompson's ancient statues; then Mr. Yates's imitations; and then Mr. Child's dissolving views: between each and all, we had songs by John Reeve and Jim Crow Rice; and, on the whole, an evening's entertainment which we should like to see often repeated.

*St James's.*—*The Lord of the Manor*, with a strong musical and comic cast, has varied the entertainments here, to the entire gratification of the lovers of song and mirth.

*Opera Buffa.*—On Tuesday, a comedietta, entitled *Un Anno ed un Giorno*, composed by M. Benedict, the conductor of the orchestra, was produced at this house: the music of the "mid-dling" order; and even this was marred by the nonsensical story. *Elisa* (Mad. E. Giannoni) promises a young soldier, *Lorenzo* (Sig. Ronconi), that if he return from the wars, we suppose, within a twelvemonth and a day, she will become his bride. At the end of this period the opera begins; but, in the interim, the lady has fallen in love with a peasant, *Giannetto* (Miss F. Wyndham); and, before they are wed, *Lorenzo* returns, and generously resigns his claims in favour of the more fortunate *Giannetto*, joins their hands, and the curtain drops. Madame Giannoni sung sweetly, as did Signor Ronconi; but the charm of the piece was a song by Miss Fanny Wyndham, which was loudly encored: it was accompanied on the horn by Signor Puzzi; of his playing we shall say nothing,—it is beyond all praise.

*Olympic.*—The return of Liston and Vestrès to their respective charges, have, during the week, given a fillip (i. e. a fill-up) to this pleasant theatre.



Madlle. Blais took her benefit on Thursday when the entertainments were, *Un Anno ed un Giorno*, and *Scaramuccia*. In the latter, the talents of the fair *beneficiaire*, Miss F. Wyndham, and Signor Catone, and the other accomplished performers of this establishment, were exerted most successfully, as usual, and gave great delight to a very full audience.

#### VARIETIES.

**Weather-wisdom.**—The Almanac has been sadly astray about the bad weather of February 2d and succeeding days (see last *Literary Gazette*): it has been very mild and reasonable! Try again. "New moon (the 5th, 10<sup>th</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> morning) brings snow or rain, and high wind. 8th, Ash Wednesday, a change. The weather very cold, with severe biting winds, and, in all probability, a severe frost,—with wind to N.E. Venus comes to a parallel declination with Mars on the 11th. Expect rain or snow."

**England and America.**—It affords us great satisfaction to record an act of royal condescension and favour, which we think will be very agreeable to American feeling. Mr. Campbell, whose great work, the "History of the American Indians, with splendid Portraits," was described among our literary notices several weeks ago, had the high honour of being admitted to an audience with the king at the Pavilion, when his Majesty graciously devoted nearly an hour to the examination of his first volume, and expressed his entire approbation of it in every respect. But, as a further gratifying proof of his consideration towards a citizen of America, engaged on an undertaking so interesting to both countries, his Majesty not only accepted the dedication of the work, but, with his own hand, signed his name as its earliest subscriber.

**Shakespeare!**—A correspondent, referring to our report of the proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries, last week, on a lately discovered autograph of our great dramatist, suggests that, from all that has been hitherto found, it is not improbable that Shakespeare wrote his name differently at different times; as it is well known, from authentic autographs of his contemporary, Sir Walter Raleigh, how many different ways the latter signed his name. Once admit the probability that Shakespeare did the same, and what becomes of "the disquisition respecting the orthography of the poet's name?"

**Capt. Scott's Rambles in Egypt** (see *Lit. Gaz.* 1044).—Being informed that our having said, in our review of this work, that the author's "Tour did not go over any new grounds," has been misconstrued to mean that Capt. Scott himself had given us nothing new, we are desirous to correct the misapprehension. Referring to the index of the *Literary Gazette* for ten years, and especially during the last two years, it will be seen that there is not a step of Egyptian ground trodden by travellers, from Belzoni to Lane, on which we have not been with them, so as to make it impossible for us in that respect to speak of the gallant officer otherwise than we did. But we did not, and could not intend to state that his remarks on the Egyptian forces, on the policy of Mohammed Ali, and on his excursion in Candia, had not both novelty and merit to recommend them to attention: on the contrary, we particularly mentioned these parts as interesting, from the testimony of an eyewitness.

**New Houses of Parliament.**—It is stated in the newspapers, that Mr. Barry, in compliance

with the orders of the Speaker, has presented an estimate of the details in erecting the splendid structure which carried away the prize in this great competition; and that the amount was less than his rough general estimate, by 724,986*l.* The plans, &c. are referred to competent authorities for examination: let us hope that no wretched economy (or its pretence) will be allowed to interfere with this national undertaking.

**Earthquake.**—Two shocks of earthquake were felt on the night of the 23-4 ultimo, at Altkirch, department of the Upper Rhine. They extended to Berne, Basle, Soleure, and the surrounding country.

**University College, London.**—At a general meeting of proprietors on Saturday, the charter was accepted; after some discussion, whether the Act of Uniformity would, or could, be applied to Dissenters in this College. If there was any risk, it was resolved to defy it.

**The Melodists' Club** held its first dinner meeting at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Thursday week. Among the company was M. Moscheles, who contributed delightfully to the general harmony of the day; which was, also, well supported by Sir George Smart, Parry, Parry, jun., Bennett, Spencer, and others of musical popularity.

**Thugs: Secret Murderers.**—The *Edinburgh Review* contains a very remarkable account of a numerous association of secret robbers and murderers, which has long existed in India, and strangled thousands of victims. It is curious that a person, who is fully instructed in the art and mystery (one who is capable of forming a gang of Thugs), is called a *Burka*!

**Dr. Thornton.**—Among recent deaths, we have to announce that of Dr. Thornton, the distinguished botanist, at his house in Howland Street, after a tedious illness and much suffering.

**The Carthusian, No. I.** (Walker: Simpkin and Marshall). Another literary and periodical *début*; and a very neat one. The Carthusians, including, we presume, youths still at the Charter House, and individuals who have finished their education at that celebrated seminary, ought to be able to produce a work of mark and likelihood; and their first No. is one of fair performance and promise. Some of the poetry is very sweet.

**Quære.**—Our amusing and worthy provincial contemporary, *The Cheltenham Looker-on*, gives us the following difficult piece of astronomical intelligence in its last Number:—"In consequence of the unavoidable postponement of Mr. Wright's Lecture on Zoology, Mr. Comfield, the curator of the institution, took the first opportunity that had offered since the *Winter Solstice*, to make a few remarks on that subject, and, in doing so, took occasion to observe that the increased diameter of that luminary bears the most exact proportion to the elliptic figure of the earth's orbit, and, in fact, is the direct means of ascertaining that figure!"

**Pompeii.**—Professor Lohm, on a scientific journey to Naples, describes several interesting antiquities recently discovered at Pompeii. In the Strada della Fortuna, three skeletons, a male and two females, have been found, in positions as if they had thrown themselves from the upper windows of their house after the lower parts had been filled with lava. A pair of beautifully carved ear-rings, ornamented with pearls, were near the female skeleton of, apparently, the daughter of the others. In the Strada di Mercurio (in which the remarkable service of plate described in a recent

*Literary Gazette* was found), two paintings, in good preservation, have since been uncovered. One represents a hermaprodite—the other, Venus and Adonis; Adonis wounded, and the goddess and her nymphs washing and tending his hurts.

**Portuguese Literature.**—Mr. John Adamson of Newcastle, the esteemed translator of "Inez de Castro," and author of "Memoirs, &c., of Camoens," has printed a catalogue of his unrivalled collection of Portuguese works, under the title of *Bibliotheca Lusitana*. It extends to 115 pages, and exhibits such a list, that we earnestly trust the whole may be secured for some public or national library, and never be separated in the melancholy way we see so many similar pursuits of men's lives scattered, as it were, to the winds, to shew the vanity of human efforts. Many of these works are of great rarity; and the mere enumeration of them supplies a fund of literary information.

#### LITERARY NOVELTIES.

Mr. Le Keux, we understand, is preparing *Memorials of Cambridge*, to match his "Memorials of Oxford," and to appear in monthly parts, illustrated with plates and wood-cuts. Mr. T. Wright is to furnish the text, and the whole will form a complete history of the university, colleges, and town of Cambridge, from original documents.

Mr. Forrest, the Tragedian, has announced a work, entitled *Rambles in Europe*, in the New York journals.

In the Press.

A New Translation of the Venerable Bede's Ecclesiastical History of the English Nation.

#### LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

On the Extent of the Atonement, by the Rev. T. W. Jenkins, post 8vo. 7*s.*—Rosetta and Miriam, by the Author of "Emma de Lisau," 12mo. 6*s.*—The Art of Writing, by J. Carstairs, 7th ed. 8vo. 7*s.*—Introduction to the Practice of Conveyancing, by J. Martin, Vol. I. Part I. royal 8vo. 1*s.*—The Christian Correspondent; Letters by Eminent Persons of both Sexes, with Preliminary Essays by J. Montgomery, 3 vols. fcap. 18*s.*—The Sanctuary and the Oratory, by the Rev. Thomas Milner, 12mo. 7*s.*—Harding's Drawing-Book for 1837, hf-mor. 1*s.*—Thanuta, the Spirit of Death, and other Poems, 12mo. 4*s.*—J. D. Chambers' Dictionary of the Law of Elections, &c. 8vo. 1*s.*—Paynell; or, the Disappointed Man, by Miles Stapleton, 2 vols. post 8vo. 1*s.*—Compendium of Lithotripsy, by H. Bellinay, 8vo. 6*s.*—The Young Ladies' Friend, by a Lady, 12mo. 3*s.*—Impressions of Italy, by the Lady E. S. Wortley, post 8vo. 10*s.*—Evils of the Factory System, by C. Wing, Esq. royal 8vo. 1*s.*

#### METEOROLOGICAL JOURNAL, 1837.

January.	Thermometer.	Barometer.
Thursday... 26	From 30 to 44	29.55 to 29.60
Friday... 27	... 34 ... 39	29.57 ... 29.75
Saturday... 28	... 31 ... 37	29.71 ... 29.81
Sunday... 29	... 26 ... 35	29.70 ... 29.69
Monday... 30	... 25 ... 42	29.70 ... 29.72
Tuesday... 31	... 33 ... 48	29.62 ... 29.66
Wednesday 1	... 33 ... 44	29.69 ... 29.66

Winds, N.E. and S.E.  
Cloudy, with frequent showers of rain; a little snow on the 28th and 29th ult.

Rain fallen, .8625 of an Inch.

Edmonton. CHARLES HENRY ADAMS.  
Latitude... 51° 37' 32" N.  
Longitude... 3 51, W. of Greenwich.

#### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

\* \* We trust that the delay will be found justified by the character of our remarks on Medal Engraving, and the plates to accompany them, which will appear in and with the next Number of the *Literary Gazette*. The subject assumed more importance, in several points of view, than we anticipated when we took it up; and being anxious to do it justice, both in regard to the arts and to national and individual claims, we have been led into that length of inquiry (having attended to both sides), which will occupy an extra half-sheet of our journal, and be illustrated by some highly finished engravings. As the latter will deserve preservation, we trust that newsmen, both for their town delivery and for their country and foreign subscribers, will take as much care as they can to keep them clean and unbroken.

W. will find a packet at our office.  
We beg to refer to our Berlin letter for some pleasing notice of English literature.

Biographical Sketch of Sir John Soane postponed.

## ADVERTISEMENT,

Connected with Literature and the Arts.

**CHEAP MODERN PUBLICATIONS,**  
being the Duplicates (in every Department of Literature) withdrawn from Andrews's Circulating Library, 167 New Bond Street. The Catalogue is now ready for delivery, gratis. It is printed on a large sheet of paper, and can be sent by post. The books are in the best condition, and in very few instances do not exceed one-third of the original published price; and in numerous instances, from 25 to 50 per cent less. These books are sold from the Library to make room for the multiplicity of new Publications announced, which are supplied in unlimited numbers to the Subscribers of this Library. Terms of Subscription, &c. to be had on application, or forwarded to any part of the Country.—N.B. Persons desirous of establishing Book Clubs or Circulating Libraries, will find the above worthy their attention.

**JULIUS KUHR, Book and Printseller, at**  
Berlin, in consequence of his extensive Connections with every Establishment in his Department, throughout the Continent, offers his services to the admirers of German Literature, and the Classics. His Catalogue includes every Publication connected with Science, scarce Old Works and Prints, which he can supply at the shortest notice, on the most reasonable Terms. He also takes this opportunity to draw the attention of Collectors to a beautiful Proof, before any Letters, of the very scarce Engraving, by Müller, after Raphael's "Madonna de St. Sisto," in the Dresden Gallery, which he will dispose of for 50s., and is in very excellent condition.

All communications addressed (post-paid) to Messrs. Ackermann and Co. 98 Strand, will be attended to with punctuality.

**MEDALLIC ENGRAVING, by**  
MACHINERY. The Mechanic's Magazine, of this day (double Number), price 6d. contains an Abridgement of the Evidence given before the Parliamentary Committee, on the British Museum, upon the English and French methods of Medall Engraving, by Machinery. Principal Witnesses: Mr. Vincent Nolte, Sir F. Chantrey, Mr. Brockedon, Mr. Henning, and Mr. Wyon. Also, Letter from Mr. Henning, on the French Piracy of his Work.

Just published,  
Vol. XXV. of the Mechanic's Magazine, illustrated with a Medall Engraving, by Mr. Bates, of Heads of Locke, Franklin, and Galileo. Price, in cloth, 6d. The Medall Engraving, on large paper, price 6d. Proofs on India paper, 3s. 6d.  
Mechanic's Magazine, and Patent Agency Office, Peterborough Court, Fleet Street.

## MUSIC.

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